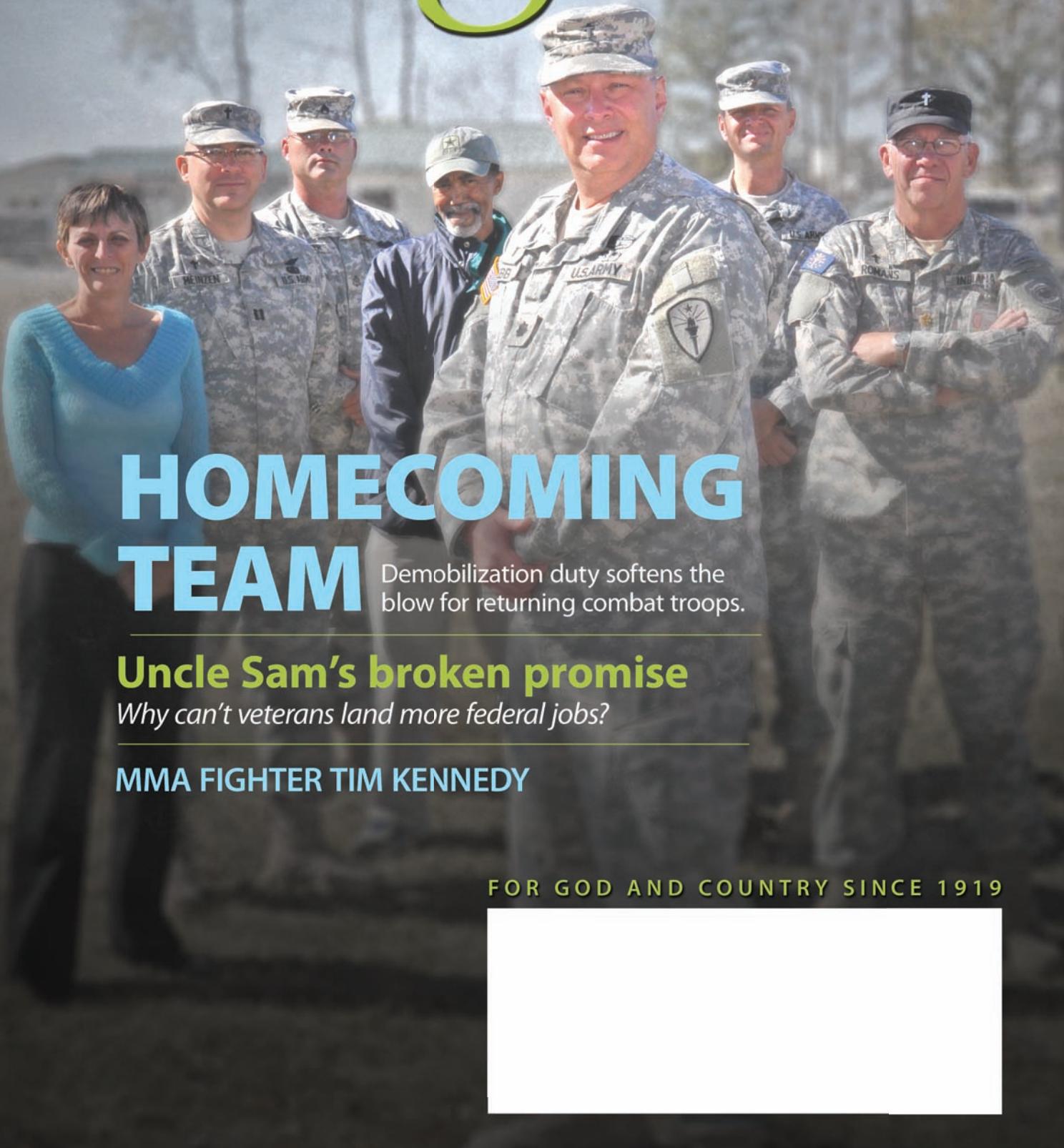


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HOMECOMING TEAM

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Uncle Sam's broken promise

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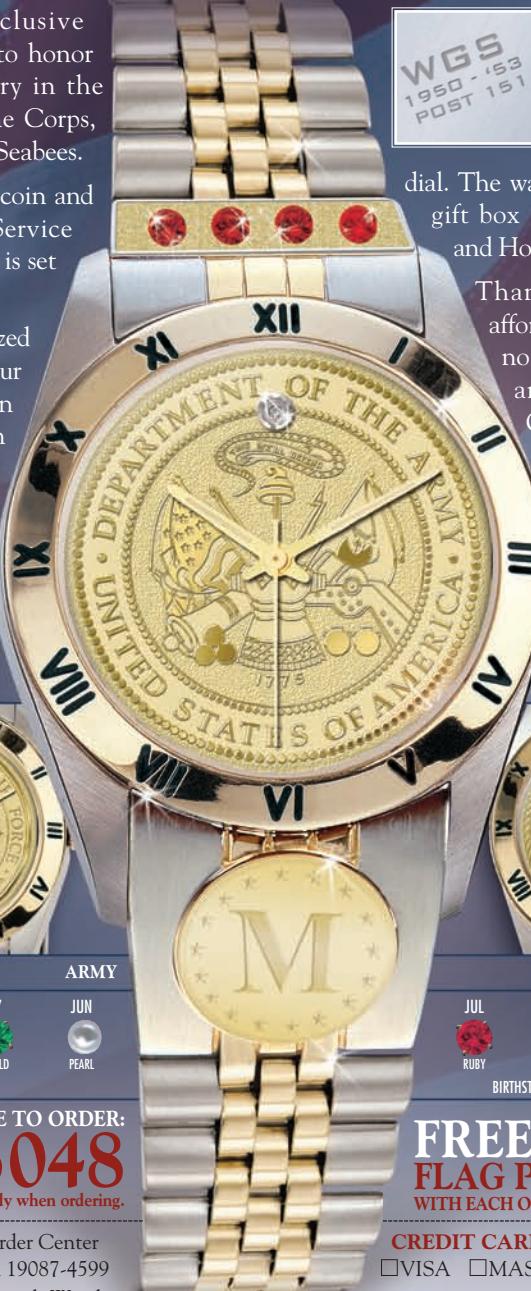
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ON THE COVER

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The American Legion Magazine, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 2.5 million members. These wartime veterans, working through 14,000 community-level posts, dedicate themselves to God and Country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youth.

O HOLY NIGHT

Airmen of the 407th Air Expeditionary Group at Ali Air Base, Iraq, gather to sing carols during a Christmas Eve candlelight service in 2007. U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Jonathan Snyder

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'Frontier Man'

I loved the great article by Matt Grills about our new national commander, Jimmie Foster (October). He's a very interesting man, with an honest approach to life and his own diverse military background. His candor about comments made by his former Marine commanders was brave. My wife of 40 years and I have been trying, so far in vain, to establish some counseling for recently returned combat veterans. The divorce rate has shocked us both. So far, no takers. But I am still working on this, and I never give up.

— Jim Breen, Blakeslee, Pa.

Frontier Man

BY MATT GRILLS
PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN PETERSON



W... Jimmie Foster quit driving to work, he says, because he was a "little bit afraid" – not of driving, but of the Army. "I had to take a wheel off," he says. "It's kind of a waste, because we get so much out of it," he says. "But the beauty of the land and the people are what I like about it."

He made some calls, and, a month or so ago, he became the permanent first national commander of The American Legion.

First National Commander Foster, 50, is a retired Army colonel from Anchorage, Alaska. His wife, Ruth, and their two sons arrived in Anchorage, and immediately began to settle in. Foster says he is the first national commander – Alaska's first. He's proud to be the first national commander from Alaska, and he's looking forward to the challenges ahead.

— Jimmie Foster, The American Legion's first national commander from Alaska

'Partners for Peace'

I was surprised that you would allow such a misrepresentation of our form of government in Alan W. Dowd's article (October). The Pledge of Allegiance states very clearly that we are pledging "to the republic for which it stands." The United States and India may be allies and partners, but we are definitely not a democracy.

— Cynthia Ann Gray, Shell Knob, Mo.

compared to the extraordinary cases of Gulf War, Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. The former groups called it "shell shock," which was never talked about or treated. Considering the massive amounts of artillery shells fired back then, pulmonary diseases must be rampant. Just go into any VA hospital and see the large quantity of older veterans with oxygen tanks. I don't think most are due to smoking.

— Bob Zelloe, Myrtle Beach, S.C.

'Cause and Effect'

I enjoyed the article by Margaret Davidson (October). Veterans' health does change over time – not only from PTSD, but also from environmental exposures. I really believe that asthma, chronic bronchitis and emphysema can be attributed to constant exposure to and inhalation of gunpowder and lead fumes from barrages of artillery, mortar and low-level bombing, many times within yards of combat troops. These chronic diseases can develop years after returning home, similar to the black-lung diseases developed years after coal miners retired.

On the issue of PTSD, I would like to see a study of its effects on World War II, Korean War and Vietnam War veterans,

'Having Been There'

Jeff Stoffer's article about Legionnaire George Ciampa and his efforts to help educate our youth about patriotism and the military was excellent (October). We are proud to have George as a member of Laguna Beach Post 222, and we have done all we can to help George procure funds for his "Let Freedom Ring" programs, so he can distribute the DVDs to schools across the United States and complete his current video about the 8th Air Force in World War II. Anyone interested in assisting can send donations to American Legion Post 222, P.O. Box 517, Laguna Beach, CA 92652.

— Dave Connell, Laguna Beach, Calif.

Post-9/11 GI Bill 2.0

I am always thrilled when I read that Congress is looking at improving the GI Bill (Veterans Update, October). Our troops and their families deserve the best program possible.

At the same time, it distresses me to remember how, as a Vietnam veteran retired from the Navy after 23 years of service, my GI Bill was discontinued before I was able to use it fully, due to the 10-year use-it-or-lose-it rule that was never clearly disclosed to us until it was too late. I felt cheated out of one of the benefits I thought I had earned. It was similar to when I re-enlisted for six years and was awarded "shortage specialty pay" as an incentive to do so, only to also have it taken away when the job classification no longer suffered from a shortage.

—Elmer E. Anderson, Oro Valley, Ariz.

Veteran homelessness

My heart was touched by your recent articles and letters from veterans about homelessness. As a disabled Vietnam War veteran, I am fortunate to live in safe HUD housing. Yet I still find it difficult to get help for routine tasks like grocery shopping or rides to community events.

People seem reluctant to reach far enough to lend a hand, even knowing I am a legally blind veteran who served with distinction. I can't imagine the additional isolation of homelessness faced by the veterans in your magazine coverage. While I believe our service is honored, there seems to be little understanding of the everyday needs

of those of us harmed in our country's wars.

As October's Vet Voice letters indicate, most of us do all we can to take care of ourselves, but there is a disconnect between those who served and sacrificed and those who did not. Please look at us. Include us. Help us out from time to time. We're not asking you to storm the beaches at Normandy or free Iraq. We just need help to get groceries or a pair of sneakers.

—Bruce Rider, Grapevine, Texas

'A Demand on My Soul'

The article by Alana Burke about K. Maurice Johannessen was well done and very interesting (Rapid Fire, October). Too bad it is not required reading for all members of the Senate and the House of Representatives, as well as the corresponding state bodies. This fellow appreciates what he has been able to accomplish after serving in the military, reading the important documents of our nation and becoming a citizen of the United States. Many of our current legislators would do well to follow his example.

—W. David Abernethy, Apple Valley, Minn.

'Behind the Blue Star'

Thanks for an excellent article (September). As a 66-year-old Vietnam veteran, I can relate to every word. I so much admire these young men and women who volunteer and serve.

When my wife and I finally met again, I felt as if I didn't know her. I had a mindset of being in-country, and my language was a mix of English

and local phrases. She had no idea of military vocabulary, either. She was full of all the things she was doing: her job, family, etc. For a couple who had six months together before deployment, there wasn't much to build upon. We struggled for another 13 years before parting ways. I was an alcoholic who couldn't hold a job or stay out of trouble. She and the kids suffered all the symptoms of codependency. Dysfunctional would be a mild description.

Today, I'm a recovering alcoholic with 24 years of sobriety and a 20-year marriage that's fulfilling in every way. I have meaningful work and finally feel comfortable in my own skin. I can only wonder how many painful and wasted years could have been avoided with the help that is available today. We must support these programs and the outstanding young people they benefit.

—John Marsh, Botkins, Ohio

On your toes, singers

Your October Parting Shots had a joke about bad clergymen being defrocked, bad lawyers disbarred, etc. I've always thought that bad choristers should be disrobed.

—Ray Ploetz, Minneapolis

Editor's note: In the October issue ("Rhode Island Teen Wins Precision Crown," Rapid Fire), the hometown of James South, who placed fourth in the Sporter category at the Junior Air Rifle National Championship in August, should have been identified as Iuka, Miss.

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE WELCOMES YOUR OPINIONS

Include your hometown and a daytime phone number for verification. All letters published are subject to editing.

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The American Legion Magazine, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206
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Turning Dreams into Reality

A new recycling program is funding an entrepreneurial education program for America's disabled veterans.

This Veterans Day weekend, football fans at half a dozen stadiums will be cheering not only players but also a team of American heroes: post-9/11 disabled veterans who battled on fields far from home.

The veterans are graduates of the Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities (EBV), a program started at Syracuse University four years ago to provide training in entrepreneurship and small-business management.

Through a unique partnership with PepsiCo, the EBV is funded in part by the Dream Machine recycling initiative. Launched on Earth Day 2010, the nationwide initiative calls for the installation of computerized Dream Machine recycling kiosks and bins in high-traffic locations such as stadiums, gas stations and parks. But this recycling program does something that few others do: It gives people the opportunity to support disabled U.S. veterans simply by recycling. The more that people recycle in a Dream Machine, the more funding PepsiCo can give the EBV.

As part of PepsiCo's Performance with Purpose mission—its corporate commitment to sustainability—the goal is to increase the beverage container recycling rate in the U.S. to 50% from 34% by 2018. The company partnered with Waste Management, Keep America Beautiful and Greenopolis



in designing the Dream Machine program to drive success in this area.

"We feel we have an important responsibility to do everything we can to help people recycle more," says Jeremy Cage, senior vice president, Innovation and Insights, at PepsiCo Beverages Americas. "By recycling in a Dream Machine, consumers can earn points toward discounts at restaurants and theaters, but they can also help fund the EBV."

"Whether you agree with the wars or not," Cage adds, "the soldiers who are fighting for this country deserve thanks."

To date, 300 vets with disabilities have graduated from EBV, which is offered at Syracuse and five other universities: Texas A&M, Florida State, UCLA, Purdue and the University of Connecti-

cut. "PepsiCo's involvement has dramatically expanded our reach in making veterans aware that this is an option in the next stage of their lives," says founder and executive director J. Michael Haynie.

One recent graduate of the program is Brian Iglesias. The 33-year-old former Marine captain was injured by a roadside bomb

in Iraq and retired from the military in 2008. Later that year, through the EBV, he launched an independent film company, Veterans Inc.

"When you come out of the military, you feel like you no longer have a purpose," Iglesias says. "The Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities allowed me to find my purpose again. A lot of vet programs are Band-Aid programs—they give you free tickets to things like baseball games. The EBV doesn't just give you a ticket to a game. It gives you a ticket to your future." ●

To learn more about how you can turn bottles into jobs and careers for America's disabled veterans, visit www.facebook.com/dreammachine.

CWF: 'To better protect our children'

The needs of disadvantaged children weighed heavily on the minds of The American Legion's founders. As they assembled in Paris, St. Louis and Minneapolis that first year after World War I, the earliest Legionnaires fully understood that many of their comrades were not coming home at all. Their wives and children were now widows and orphans. Many newly discharged veterans were permanently changed – shell-shocked, gassed or physically disabled – and unable to care for their loved ones as they once did. America was not equipped to handle the needs of so many disrupted families. It was up to the Legion to provide what the founders called "a square deal for every child."

Over the years, the Legion has fulfilled that obligation in uncountable ways. Since 1954, one of the most far-reaching Legion programs to fulfill that core value has been the Child Welfare Foundation, which has provided more than \$11 million in grants to worthy causes over the years. Last fall alone, the foundation awarded \$666,670 in grants to 21 different organizations dedicated to improving the lives of young people who have been dealt difficult circumstances. (*For a complete list of recipients and links to their sites, visit www.legion.org/childwelfare.*)

Child Welfare Foundation grants are awarded for focused projects that help nonprofit organizations better communicate to those who need assistance. A CWF grant allows an organization to concentrate on the mission at hand – helping kids – by reducing some of the marketing burden. If you think about it, there is no better way to spread a charitable contribution dollar than by granting it for an effort to spread the word far and wide. It's a real multiplier effect.

I invite you to look at this year's list of CWF grant recipients. These are truly amazing organizations that make real differences in the lives of young people. Among them are the Children's Organ Transplant Association, Father Flanagan's Boys Town, the Make-A-Wish Foundation, the National Autism Association, the National Children's Cancer Society and Young Marines. As just one example, I give you the National Exchange Club of Toledo, Ohio, which received a \$25,000 grant to use in 2010 for its Child Abuse Prevention program. CWF funds were used so the 23,000-member organization could produce and distribute child-abuse prevention kits, along with effective "cheat sheets" that provide advice to help parents get through stressful times. "The Child Welfare Foundation grant is enabling us to better protect our children," says Genevieve Stults, a program specialist who participated in our Children & Youth Conference in September. The organization, she explains, has helped 691,000 parents break the cycle of abuse for 30 years and has created safer homes for more than 1.7 million children in that time.

The holidays are upon us. Our hearts and prayers, as always, are with U.S. troops in harm's way and their families. Many of us will take time to donate items, or fill care boxes to ship overseas, or help veterans in VA facilities send gifts to their families. I would ask that you also consider the Child Welfare Foundation in your giving plans this season. All overhead costs are covered by the Legion, so every donated cent directly helps us to "better protect our children."

www.legion.org/donate




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New nuclear-arms reduction treaty



SUPPORT

Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, D-N.H.

■ Shaheen serves on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The Senate took a strong, bipartisan step forward in advancing U.S. security when the Senate Foreign Relations Committee approved the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty ("New START"). The treaty limits the number of nuclear weapons aimed at the United States, gives us critical intelligence on Russia's nuclear arsenal and allows us to maintain a credible deterrent to protect our homeland and our allies.

New START has the unanimous backing of our nation's military leadership, including the Defense secretary, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs, the commander of our nation's strategic forces, and the director of the Missile Defense Agency. National-security experts from both parties and from seven presidential administrations urged the Senate to approve this treaty.

As the two nations in control of more than 90 percent of the world's nuclear weapons, the United States and Russia must lead the world in reducing the threat of a nuclear exchange and making sure nuclear materials do not fall into the wrong hands. New START will give us additional leverage to press the international community to secure nuclear weapons and materials around the globe.

Since the previous treaty expired last December, we have been unable to inspect Russia's nuclear arsenal and obtain vital intelligence. New START would allow these critical inspections to resume and would make sure that the United States can – in the words of the late President Reagan – "trust but verify" Russia's nuclear commitments.

The threat of nuclear terrorism, the proliferation of nuclear materials and a lack of access to Russia's nuclear program are too dangerous to delay further action. To strengthen our national security, New START deserves ratification.



OPPOSE

Sen. Jim Inhofe, R-Okla.

■ Inhofe is a member of the Senate Armed Services and Foreign Relations committees.

For the future safety of all Americans and our close allies, the Senate should not ratify the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty without significant changes to its language. If ratified as written, this treaty will have a devastating impact to our national security, as it is unverifiable and reduces our country's nuclear stockpile while failing to ensure that our nuclear weapons, delivery platforms and infrastructure are modernized.

The treaty also limits the development and deployment of our missile-defense capabilities, and it focuses solely on Russia, failing to deter proliferation by neglecting current threats such as North Korea, Syria and Iran. As a nation at war with continuing threats, disarming the United States and our defenses is an irresponsible move.

Instead, we must fully fund and modernize our nuclear enterprise, and field a viable near-term missile defense, to remain a credible deterrent. This is why I offered two amendments to New START that would have prohibited it from coming into effect until President Obama provides Congress with a plan to develop, fund and replace our nuclear stockpile, and requires him to develop and field a more robust missile-defense capability.

We are repeatedly told by the treaty's supporters that it is this treaty or nothing, and that is just not an accurate statement. The United States and Russia are still committed under the 2002 Moscow Treaty. I cannot support a treaty that reduces our nuclear stockpile without specifying the means of verification, does not fully fund nuclear-enterprise modernization, and fails to ensure that the resulting force structure will be able to provide a viable nuclear deterrent.

CONTACT YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

The Honorable (name), U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510 • Phone: (202) 224-3121

The Honorable (name), U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515 • Phone: (202) 225-3121

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The United States Rare Coin and Bullion Reserve Vault Facility today announces the final release of 5,000 U.S. Gov't Issued Gold Coins previously held in The West Point Depository/U.S. Mint. U.S. citizens will be able to buy 2010 Gov't Issued \$5 Gold Coins at an incredible no mark-up price of only \$154.27 each. An amazing price because these U.S. Gov't Issued Gold Coins are completely free of dealer mark-up. That's correct, our cost. This is an incredible opportunity to buy U.S. Gov't Issued Gold Coins at cost. The Gold market in October 2010 hit a new high of over \$1,350 per ounce and is predicted by experts to have the explosive upside potential of reaching up to \$15,000 an ounce. A limit of ten U.S. Gov't Issued Gold Coins per customer will be strictly adhered to. Orders that are not immediately reserved with our order center could be subject to cancellation and your checks returned uncashed. Good luck. Order immediately to avoid disappointment. Coins from other years will be shipped if oversold. Call Toll-Free 1-800-514-9034.



2010 Gold American Eagle

Coins enlarged to show detail. Actual size of coin 1/10 oz.

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DEPRESSION

More than a case of the blues

BY KATHY SUMMERS

If the holiday season has you feeling blue, you're not alone. But if the feeling persists, what seems like a down mood may actually be a sign of depression. The symptoms are not always obvious, and real depression is not likely to go away by itself.

Although women are diagnosed with depression more often than men, men are less likely to seek treatment.

"There's a cultural myth that men don't get depressed," says Dr. Will Courtenay, a psychotherapist in Berkeley, Calif., and author of "Dying to be Men." "What that communicates to men is that they shouldn't get depressed."

The classic signs of depression are those women are more likely to exhibit: feelings of sadness, fatigue, and a sense of hopelessness, among others. The problem can be trickier to identify in men, even for doctors, Courtenay says. A depressed man may show classic symptoms, but he's just as likely to act out, become

aggressive, work too much or too little, have affairs, withdraw, or drink too much – all signs that can be misunderstood. Thus, it's important for a man to seek a mental-health professional who specializes in men's depression.

Trying to drink away depression is especially problematic, says Dr. Gary J. Kennedy, professor of psychiatry and director of geriatric psychiatry at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in Bronx, N.Y., and author of "Geriatric Mental Health Care." Not only does drinking make the depression worse, but the depression is often missed or misdiagnosed as alcohol abuse.

Also, even small amounts of alcohol can make treatments less effective, according to a University of Pennsylvania study that focused on older veterans.

For anyone who might be depressed, the first step is to recognize there's a problem. The second step is to get help from a licensed mental-health professional. The recommended treatment for depression usually includes a combination of antidepressant medication and cognitive therapy. The risks of not getting help can be serious, from wasting valuable time to suicide. Unfortunately, even

Hotline help

If you're depressed enough to feel suicidal, or you know someone who is suicidal, call one of these hotlines immediately:

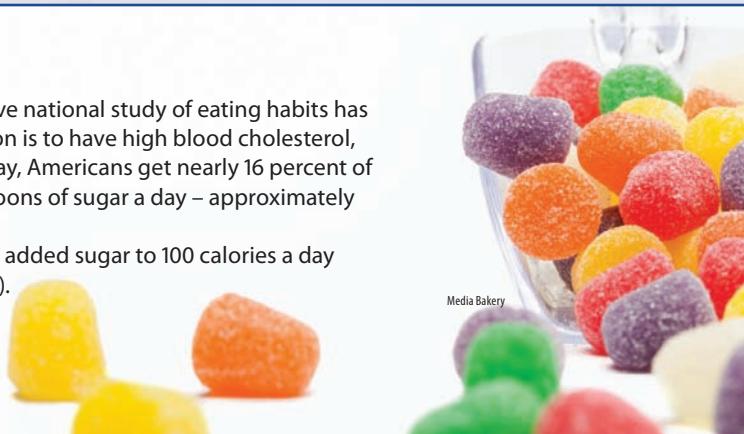
VA's 1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255)
1-800-SUICIDE (1-800-784-2433)

Media Bakery

The not-so-sweet life

It's not just the fat we eat. For the first time, a comprehensive national study of eating habits has shown that the more sugar consumed, the more likely a person is to have high blood cholesterol, high triglycerides and other risk factors for heart disease. Today, Americans get nearly 16 percent of their calories from sugar and consume an average of 21 teaspoons of sugar a day – approximately 359 calories' worth. About half of that comes from soft drinks.

The American Heart Association recommends women limit added sugar to 100 calories a day (six teaspoons), and men to 150 calories a day (nine teaspoons).



people who seek help for depression may not get the treatment they need.

Only half of Americans diagnosed with depression are receiving treatment, and only one in five are receiving treatment based on the recommended guidelines, according to new research from the Institute of Gerontology and Wayne State University in Detroit.

The good news is that getting the right treatment can have real and lasting benefits, says Dr. Donald Hall, a counseling psychiatrist based in Washington and author of "Breaking Through Depression."

"Cutting-edge science over the past five years shows that the brain can actually repair cells damaged by depression," Hall says.

Although heredity accounts for many cases of depression, stress caused by military deployments, divorce or adjusting to retirement can release stress hormones that damage the brain cells, he continues. "The research shows that treatment with antidepressants and/or psychotherapy help the brain repair that damage so you feel better."

Social support is also a must for anyone dealing with depression around the holidays or at any time, Kennedy says.

"It's not the number of people who support you or whether you give as much as you get," he

Signs and symptoms

According to the National Institute of Mental Health, classic signs of depression may include:

- Persistent sad, anxious or "empty" feelings
- Feelings of hopelessness and/or pessimism
- Feelings of guilt, worthlessness and/or helplessness
- Irritability, restlessness
- Loss of interest in activities or hobbies once pleasurable, including sex
- Fatigue and decreased energy
- Difficulty concentrating, remembering details and making decisions
- Insomnia, early-morning wakefulness or excessive sleeping
- Overeating or appetite loss
- Thoughts of suicide, suicide attempts
- Persistent aches or pains, headaches, cramps or digestive problems that do not ease even with treatment

Not just for kids

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reminds us that immunizations are not just for children. Adults need them, too, if they are to stay healthy. Lifelong immunizations you may need include:

Seasonal influenza (flu): In general, anyone 6 months or older can benefit from the protection of a flu vaccination.

Tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (whooping cough): Adults 64 and younger should consider a booster shot.

Shingles: Adults 60 and older can benefit from a shingles shot.

Pneumococcal disease: Adults 65 and older and adults with specific health conditions should consider this vaccine.

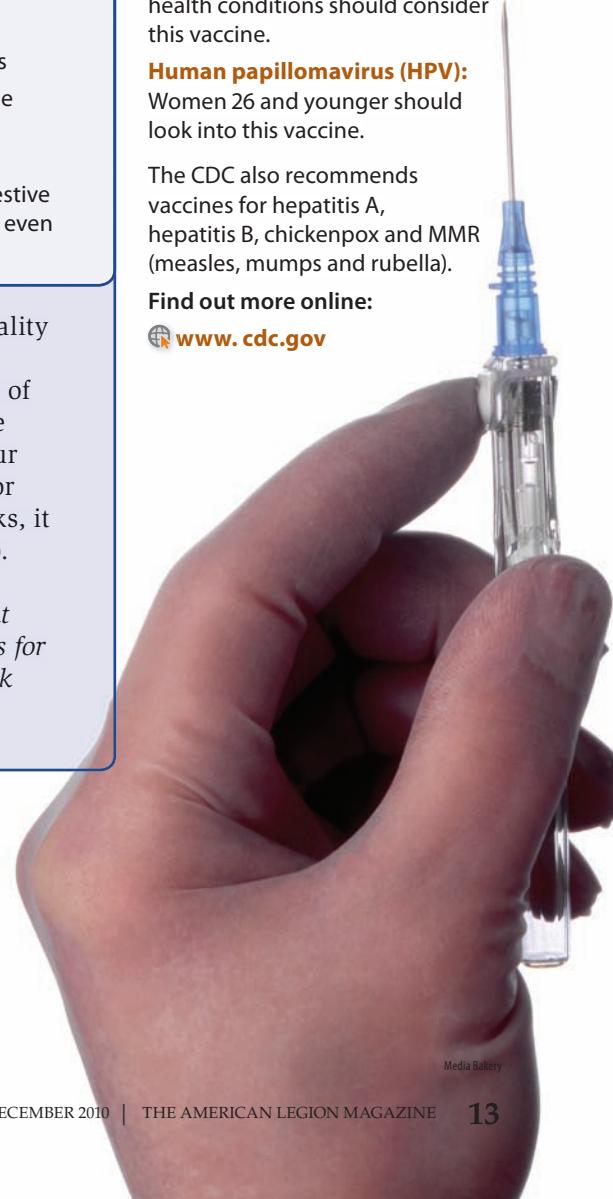
Human papillomavirus (HPV): Women 26 and younger should look into this vaccine.

The CDC also recommends vaccines for hepatitis A, hepatitis B, chickenpox and MMR (measles, mumps and rubella).

Find out more online:

 www.cdc.gov

Living Well is designed to provide general information. It is not intended to be, nor is it, medical advice. Readers should consult their physicians when they have health problems.



Healthy homes

To keep – or make – your home safe from health hazards, WebMD offers five easy steps:

Check labels on cleaning supplies, and avoid products that don't list their ingredients.

Slip off your shoes upon entering your house. Shoes carry lots of outside pollutants.



Use vacuums and sweepers with a HEPA (or "high-efficiency particulate air") filter. These pull dust mites and mold out of carpets.

Keep your home's humidity below 60 percent. This helps fight mold and mildew growth.

Go low. New paint and new carpet can actually emit toxic fumes, and are especially harmful to pregnant women. WebMD suggests choosing "low-VOC paints" and requesting your carpet provider "cook" the carpet before installation, which will release dangerous chemicals.



THE BATTLE AT HOME

VA, NIH partner on substance-abuse research.

BY DR. JOEL KUPERSMITH

The emotional stress of war has been studied from many angles by VA researchers.

One area of concern, especially among veterans returning from deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan, is substance abuse. This includes not only alcohol and illicit drugs, but tobacco and prescription drugs as well.

Long noted as a leader in addiction research and treatment, VA has stepped up its research commitment in this area.

Among other recent initiatives, the agency has partnered with the National Institutes of Health to fund more than \$6 million in new studies, most focused on returning veterans. Some studies will look at why and when veterans ask for help, and why many don't. Others will test treatments such as cognitive behavioral therapy or Web-based approaches.

The VA portion of the funding, about \$2 million, is dedicated to four studies:

- Researchers at the West Haven VA Medical Center in Connecticut will explore differences in addiction behaviors between male and female veterans.
- At the Little Rock, Ark., VA Medical Center, investigators will conduct in-depth interviews with veterans coping with substance abuse, to better understand post-deployment addiction and treatment-seeking.
- In Seattle, a VA group will look at tobacco use among veterans participating in the Millennium Cohort Study, a major epidemiologic-research effort involving VA and the Department of Defense.
- A study at the Philadelphia VA Medical Center will involve veterans who suffer from both an addiction and PTSD. Investigators aim to determine whether the two issues are best treated at the same time or one after the other.

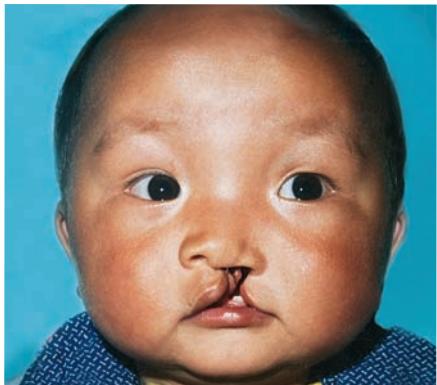
Over the next few years, results from these and other studies should greatly enhance VA's ability to provide the most effective care and treatment to those brave men and women who served the nation in war and now find themselves battling addictions at home.

Dr. Joel Kupersmith is chief research and development officer for the Veterans Health Administration.



Media Bakery

This Holiday Season, Give The Gift Of A Smile.



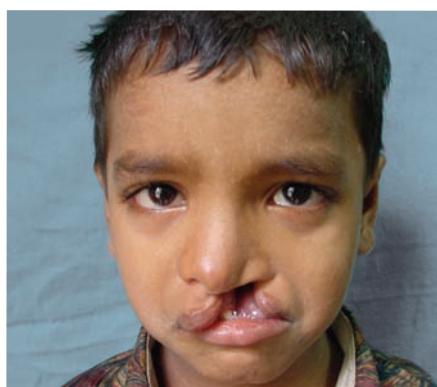
Ming, 6 months, China



Shiva, 1 year, India



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Durgap, 5 years, India



Funmi, 8 years, Nigeria



Salazar, 5 years, Philippines

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According to the U.S. Government, women should take sufficient levels of folic acid (400 micrograms/day) during pregnancy to help prevent neural tube defects and reduce the risk for cleft lip and palate. When folic acid is taken one month before conception and throughout the first trimester, it has been proven to reduce the risk for neural tube defects by 50 to 70 per cent. Be sure to receive proper prenatal care, quit smoking and drinking alcohol and follow your health care provider's guidelines for foods to avoid during pregnancy. Foods to avoid may include raw or undercooked seafood, beef, pork or poultry; delicatessen meats; fish that contain high levels of mercury; smoked seafood; fish exposed to industrial pollutants; raw shellfish or eggs; soft cheeses; unpasteurized milk; pâté; caffeine; and unwashed vegetables. For more information, visit www.SmileTrain.org. Smile Train is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit recognized by the IRS, and all donations to Smile Train are tax-deductible in accordance with IRS regulations. © 2010 Smile Train.

Benefits law 'incredible move forward'

BY TOM PHILPOTT

The Veterans' Benefits Act of 2010 (H.R. 3219), signed by President Obama on Oct. 13, makes a host of long-sought improvements to a diverse group of veteran programs and benefits, many for the disabled.

"It touches virtually every issue that we've been working on for several years," said Rep. Bob Filner, D-Calif., chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee. "It's an incredible move forward for all our veterans."

The comprehensive new law has no showpiece initiative. Indeed, it will disappoint World War II-era Merchant Marine vets because, to get the bill passed, House negotiators dropped a provision to pay them \$1,000 a month regardless of need or disability.

Critics said this would create a new category of veteran, and that these former mariners have already gained veteran status and are eligible for VA benefits, including a needs-based pension.

But the new law does improve many other benefits, including some allowances for disabled veterans and certain VA insurance options. And for reservists returning to civilian jobs, employment protections are strengthened, as are some veteran-housing and homeless programs.

Tim Tetz, the Legion's legislative director, said an increase to VA's burial-plot allowance, from \$300 to \$700, "is going to infuse a tremendous amount of money into states to help pay for cemetery operations and the services they perform for veterans. It will make up for many of the budget cuts that state veterans-service offices and the cemeteries are going to have to endure as the state budgets continue to get hacked."

Tetz also lauded a near doubling of the automobile-assistance allowance for vets who have lost limbs or have other qualifying disabilities. The vehicle allowance is raised from \$11,000 to \$18,900, and will be adjusted for inflation each October. The one-time payment can be used to buy a vehicle or equip it to accommodate disabilities.

Other highlights of the new law include:

- The new law raises the ceiling on Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance (S-DVI) coverage from \$20,000 to \$30,000. Totally disabled veterans can receive \$10,000 of S-DVI coverage with premiums waived. They can also buy the supplemental coverage, now with the higher ceiling.
- Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) coverage for totally disabled veterans is permanently extended from 18 months to two years after leaving the service. This applies retroactively to persons separated on or after June 15, 2005.
- The maximum loan guarantee amount under the Veterans' Mortgage Life Insurance program is raised from \$90,000 to \$150,000. It will increase again, to \$200,000, on Jan. 1, 2012.
- Individuals who qualify for retroactive traumatic-injury-protection coverage under SGLI (called TSGLI) now include veterans who incurred qualifying traumatic

injuries on or after Oct. 7, 2001, but before Dec. 1, 2005, regardless of where the injuries occurred.

- Veterans are now able to increase their Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) coverage by \$25,000 every five years until age 60.
- The Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) will give military personnel a "private right of action" to file their own lawsuits against businesses, landlords or others who violate their legal rights. The law also allows the Justice Department to bring civil actions against SCRA violators.

Congress found the money to cover the added costs of these improved benefits under the new law by extending until 2015 a reduction in VA pensions for vets with no spouse or children who are covered by a Medicaid plan while residing in a nursing home. With this extension, the legislation will save VA \$394 million over the next five years.

Tom Philpott, a former Coast Guardsman, has written about veterans and military personnel issues for more than 30 years.



U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jhi L. Scott

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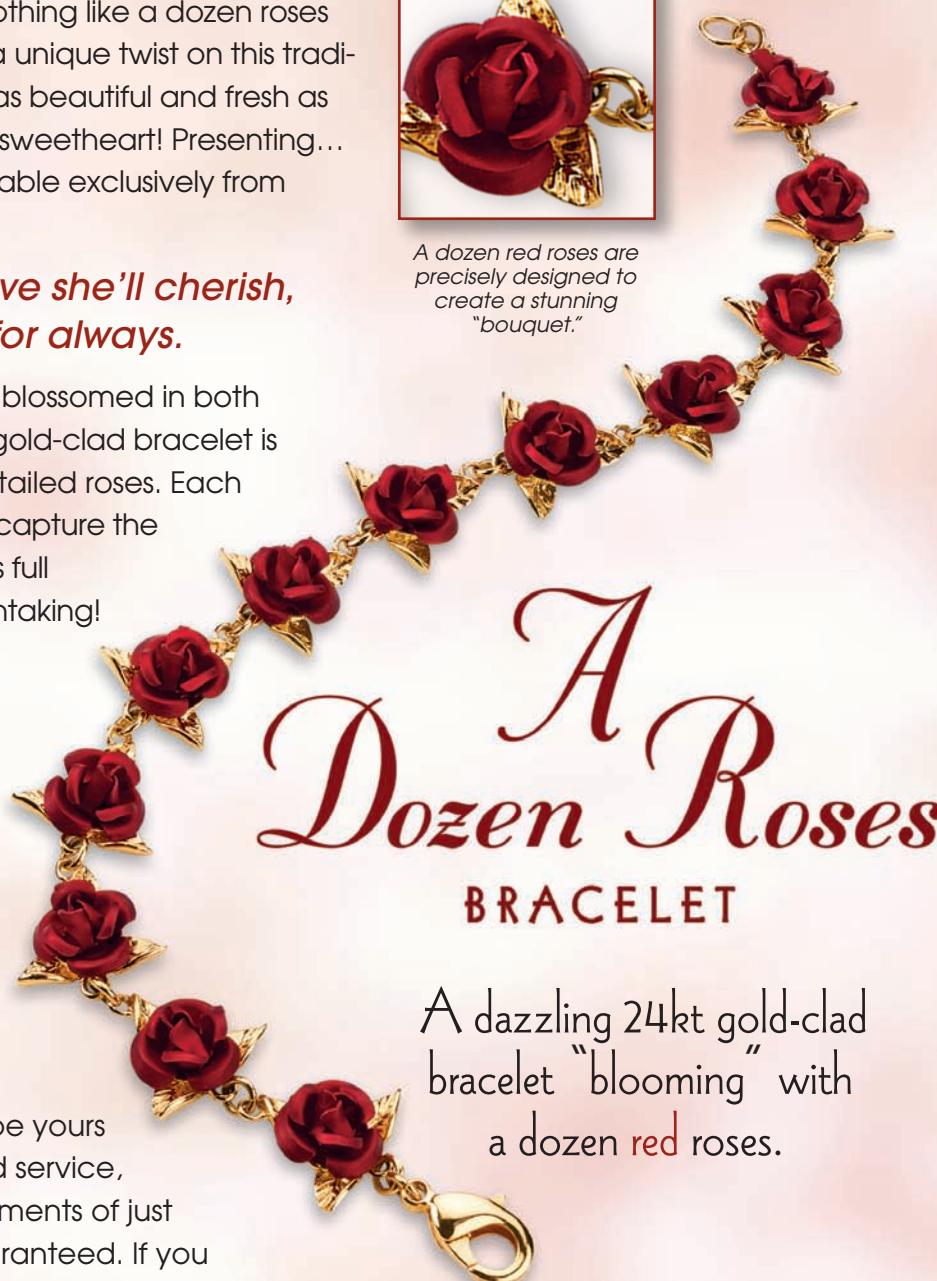
A Dozen Roses Bracelet will arrive in a luxurious gift box. Ideal for gift-giving and safekeeping, it's yours at no additional charge.

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A Dozen Roses Bracelet can be yours for \$69 plus \$7.80 shipping and service, payable in two monthly installments of just \$38.40. Your satisfaction is guaranteed. If you are not delighted with the bracelet, return it within 90 days for replacement or refund. Order today!



A dozen red roses are precisely designed to create a stunning "bouquet."



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A dazzling 24kt gold-clad bracelet "blooming" with a dozen red roses.

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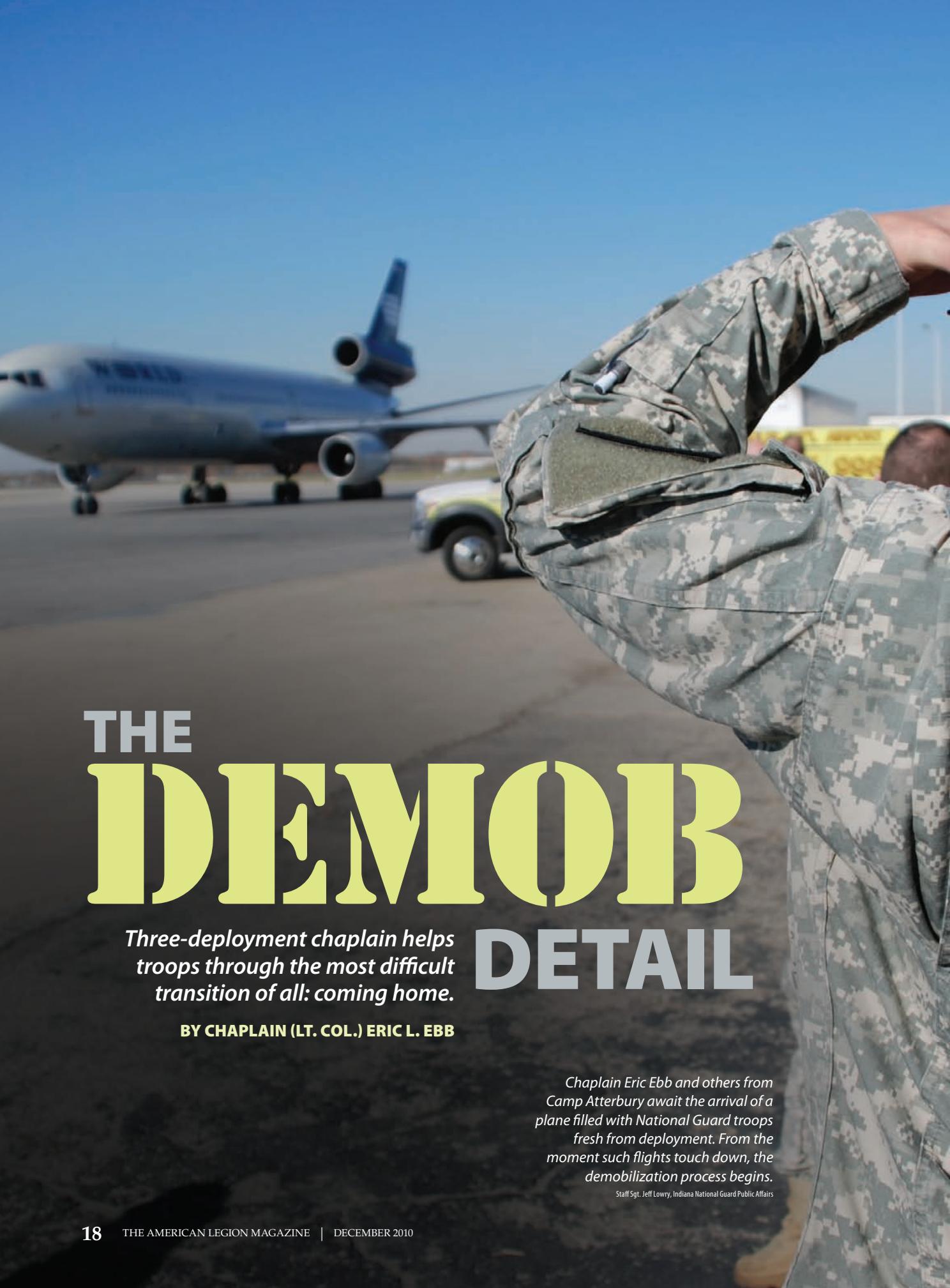
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THE **DEMOB** DETAIL

*Three-deployment chaplain helps
troops through the most difficult
transition of all: coming home.*

BY CHAPLAIN (LT. COL.) ERIC L. EBB

*Chaplain Eric Ebb and others from
Camp Atterbury await the arrival of a
plane filled with National Guard troops
fresh from deployment. From the
moment such flights touch down, the
demobilization process begins.*

Staff Sgt. Jeff Lowry, Indiana National Guard Public Affairs



IT'S 2 A.M., and an assortment of men and women, some in uniform, can be found milling conspicuously around the international gate of the Indianapolis airport. A plane loaded with soldiers returning from overseas deployments is expected to land within minutes. Peering through the glass into the night sky are a military police officer, a transportation officer and sergeant, a chaplain, an airport representative and a U.S. Customs official. Most have come here from the Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center about 30 miles south of Indianapolis.

Circling the airport overhead are men and women, National Guard and Army Reserve soldiers from all over the nation, ready to hear the words "mission complete." Inside the cabin, they mentally brace themselves for the abrupt shift back to civilian life. They're near the end of a 20-hour flight home, a trip typically broken up by leg-stretching stops in Germany, Ireland, Newfoundland or Maine. Now, just minutes from touching down in America's heartland, some of the troops are asleep. Others are making small talk, or just staring through the windows. There's an unspoken tension in the air. What will home be like? What's changed? How much have my kids grown? Will my job still be there? For some of these soldiers, this is not their first homecoming. Whether they have just finished their first, second or third deployment, they are experiencing the conflicting emotions of leaving a world of friends and comrades still in harm's way and returning to the relative safety of their families in the United States.

As the installation chaplain at Camp Atterbury, I am deeply involved in all a soldier goes through immediately after returning from an overseas wartime deployment. So much is written and reported these days about high rates of soldier suicide and post-traumatic stress that I fear the majority of Americans believe all who served in theater are high risks for serious problems when transitioning back to civilian life. While some do have difficulties, many more make the transition with few issues. But everyone who comes home from war needs an adjustment period. That's why there are demobilization details scattered across the country – people like us, who meet in airports no matter the time of day or night, waiting for military men and women to set foot in America for the first time since they left for the war.

Off in the distance is a faint light. One of the members of the detail points it out. It seems to hang there on the horizon, suspended in space,

Only 46 states remain in free state \$2 bill giveaway

Hotline operators can barely keep up with all of the calls because with each vault pack residents get a free state \$2 bill, so before calling the World Reserve, residents are being asked to make sure their state still appears on the list of remaining states below



NEW STATE \$2 BILLS: Each of the new state \$2 bills being overlaid and released exclusively by the World Reserve feature their state's skyline and significant state symbol with President Thomas Jefferson on the front.

NATIONAL TREASURE: The reverse of the \$2 bill features a detailed engraving of John Trumbull's famous 1820 painting "The Signing of the Declaration of Independence." The original hangs in the National Portrait Gallery in Washington D.C.

REMAINING STATES

Only residents of these states can still get their state \$2 bills free:

Alabama	Montana
Alaska	Nebraska
Arizona	Nevada
Arkansas	New Hampshire
Colorado	New Jersey
Connecticut	New Mexico
Delaware	New York
Florida	North Carolina
Georgia	North Dakota
Hawaii	Ohio
Idaho	Oklahoma
Illinois	Oregon
Indiana	Rhode Island
Iowa	South Carolina
Kansas	South Dakota
Kentucky	Tennessee
Louisiana	Texas
Maine	Utah
Maryland	Virginia
Michigan	Washington
Minnesota	West Virginia
Mississippi	Wisconsin
Missouri	Wyoming

Residents of the remaining 46 states have just 7 days to get their state's new \$2 bills free

Only existing state \$2 bills being given away free to the first 3,956 residents from the remaining states who beat the deadline to order the state \$2 bill vault packs containing 4 protective estate wallets each loaded with its own state \$2 bill

By Joan Tedeschi
Universal Media Syndicate

It's like a run on the banks. The phones just keep ringing off the hook.

That's because state residents are actually getting the World Reserve's exclusive state overlaid \$2 bills for free.

The only thing residents need to do to get their new state bills is call 1-866-497-6717 or one of the five Overflow Hotlines right now to get a state \$2 bill vault pack containing 4 protective estate wallets, each loaded with its own state \$2 bill for just \$12 and shipping per wallet. The first 3,956 residents from each remaining state who do are also getting their state's new \$2 bill in a protective estate

wallet and a Certificate of Authenticity free.

This free giveaway starts at precisely 8:00am today. But only the first 3,956 state residents who call to beat the 7-day deadline will instantly be awarded their state \$2 bills for free.

Special Toll Free Hotlines have been set up because you can't get these exclusive bills at local banks, credit unions or even the Federal Reserve. They're only being released directly to state residents exclusively by the private World Reserve.

These crisp state \$2 bills featuring the exclusively designed state overlay are so precious you would never even dream of carrying them around in an ordinary



FREE PUBLIC GIVEAWAY: Shown above are the World Reserve's state \$2 bill vault packs that residents from each state are trying to get their hands on. That's because they are the only existing state \$2 bills. But only the first 3,956 state residents who call before the 7-day deadline to order the vault packs are getting their state \$2 bill for free. So if lines are busy keep trying, all calls will be answered.

leather wallet.

That's why they are being released in individually loaded rich protective estate wallets. They are so impressive, everyone will swear they must have been taken right from the Governor's desk.

"Everything in our vault may soon be gone. So residents who want to get them now had better hurry and call," said Jefferson Marshall, Executive Director of the private World Reserve Monetary Exchange.

Some collectors are always trying to snatch up all the original \$2 bills issued by the Government they can get their hands on. They know that \$2 bills are almost impossible to find in your pocket change these days.

Originally issued in 1928, the currently designed \$2 bills have largely been locked away in the bowels of the U.S. Federal Reserve vaults, rarely distributed by banks and almost never seen

in circulation.

The \$2 bills issued by the Treasury Department's Bureau of Engraving and Printing, makers of all the nation's paper currency, make up less than 1% of the \$670 billion in genuine U.S. currency that circulates worldwide, according to the U.S. Department of Treasury.

"That's why I've authorized a limited number of genuine Government issued \$2 bills to be overlaid with each state's exclusive design and released from our private vault reserve to the first 3,956 state residents who call to beat the 7-day deadline for free. For now dealers can't get the state \$2 bill vault packs to make sure residents can get what they need," Marshall said.

"These exclusive state \$2 bills will be highly sought after and are extremely popular to hand out as gifts for friends and family. They are the perfect gift for any occasion," he

said.

"That's why this announcement is being so widely advertised, to make sure the first 3,956 state residents who call from each state have a chance to get their own state \$2 bills for free," said Marshall.

They are sure to impress because most people have never even seen one of these newly

enhanced state \$2 bills featuring their state's skyline and significant state symbol with President Thomas Jefferson on the front.

"Since the World Reserve has the only existing state \$2 bills, residents who want more than 10 state \$2 bill vault packs containing 4 protective estate wallets, each loaded with its own

state \$2 bill must submit requests in writing so there will be no hoarding," said Marshall.

"You better believe we will be strictly enforcing the limits so that we can guarantee there will be enough vault packs for the first 3,956 State residents who call in the next 7 days," Marshall said. ■

HOW TO GET YOUR FREE STATE \$2 BILLS

RESIDENTS OF THE REMAINING 46 STATES ONLY

The special Toll Free Hotlines are open to state residents only. The first 3,956 state residents who call to beat the 7-day deadline get their state \$2 bills free beginning at 8:00am today.

The only thing residents need to do is get the state \$2 bill vault pack containing 4 protective estate wallets, each loaded with its own state \$2 bill for just \$12 per wallet and shipping. The first 3,956 residents from the remaining states who do are also getting their new state \$2 bill free.

The World Reserve Monetary Exchange is releasing the exclusive state overlaid \$2 bills free for the next 7 days. If you miss the deadline you'll be turned away and forced to wait for future announcements in this publication or others, if any. There is a strict limit of 10 state \$2 bill vault packs per household. To claim yours call the special Toll Free Hotline number below or visit us online.

SPECIAL TOLL FREE HOTLINE:

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until it glows brighter and brighter as the plane descends. It passes over the terminal. The markings are visible. "Yep ... that's them."

Our group moves toward the gate door as the plane taxis to the front of the terminal. Ground handlers block the tires, and the customs agent walks out onto the tarmac, followed closely by the transportation officer and me.

We climb the steps and wait quietly for the door to open. When it finally does, we are greeted by a mixture of emotion-washed faces. Some are smiling broadly. Others are blank with awe. All appear exhausted.

The customs agent checks the flight manifest before going back down the steps. The transportation officer gives some instructions and then hands the microphone to me. I lead a short prayer, giving thanks for the soldiers' safe return.

By this time, another group has assembled below us on the tarmac. These people are from the returning soldiers' home units. As the troops in from the Middle East pass through the door, I give each one a handshake and a hearty "Welcome home."

I have participated in many such airport runs at all hours, and I can honestly say there are few greater joys I've known than standing at the door of a plane and watching U.S. soldiers step into safety for the first time in months. Hot or cold, daylight or dark, few honors compare to being first to welcome them home.

Once inside the terminal, the soldiers wait for their luggage. Buses from the base line up in the parking lot. A truck is waiting with fresh coffee. Water and snacks are available, too, as each one realizes that he or she is out of combat, but not yet fully home.

The combination of fatigue and impatience after such a journey often leads to unique behavior. I've seen soldiers get down on their hands and knees and kiss the ground. I once observed soldiers walk over to a grassy area next to a parking lot and lovingly stroke the lawn. Some lie down and roll on it. Usually, though, the men and women just stand near the buses and chatter idly until the order is given to board and begin the next step in the trip: demobilization, or "demob," as the troops call it for short.

Every member of the U.S. military returning from deployment goes through demobilization. For active-duty personnel, this happens at their assigned bases. For Guardsmen and reservists, it usually occurs at the bases where they trained for deployment. For many soldiers, sailors, airmen and



Photo: James V. Carroll

A BRIEF TASTE OF HOME

Following 1st Army policy, Camp Atterbury limits and closely controls the amount of family time troops get immediately after they arrive back in the United States. Families are not permitted to greet the soldiers at Indianapolis International Airport due to security concerns and a lack of facilities for families waiting there, but they do reunite briefly at the National Guard's Stout Field (above) or Camp Atterbury before the demobilization process begins.

At Camp Atterbury, no passes or leaves are authorized until out-processing is completed through the Soldier Readiness Center. Troops may not use privately owned vehicles. Alcohol consumption is prohibited. Off-duty travel is restricted to an area not to exceed a 50-mile radius from the installation, and the curfew is 10 p.m.

Marines, this means returning to Camp Atterbury, where more than 50,000 have trained for deployment since 2003.

THE ADJUSTMENT PROCESS. At 7 a.m., the first of five straight days of demob begins. The jet-lagged soldiers file into a large room filled with chairs and a projection screen. This is not where they want to be. They would much rather be at home with their loved ones. The briefing staff, knowing the soldiers are tired and anxious, tries to make them at least comfortable.

The day's itinerary flashes on the big screen: briefings from medical, the chaplain, legal,

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DECOMPRESSION DETAILS

Demobilizing units go through an average of five days of evaluation and instruction designed to ease the transition from combat to civilian life. Subjects addressed in "demob" include:

- Legal issues
- Medical assessments
- Psychological evaluations
- Briefings to understand VA benefits
- Family counseling
- Support groups and networks

Photo: James V. Carroll

finance, insurance. The soldiers resign themselves to a full day of lectures. The presenters go out of their way to be upbeat and helpful.

As the installation chaplain, I'm one of the first to present. I use humor and my own experiences – three deployments with the National Guard – to connect with the soldiers. Laughter, I have found, is an effective tool for getting people to pay attention. And they do.

"I remember the first week I was home," I tell them, describing my initial return from combat. "I walked into a gas station, grabbed a bottle of water from the cooler and walked out."

There is a brief pause, then laughter, because they all know what I forgot. "You have to pay for it over here!"

I relate to them what will be a dramatic change of scenery. "I guarantee this will happen to all of you within the first two weeks you're home ... You'll be out at a restaurant with your family or friends. In the middle of the meal, you'll stop and panic. Why? You'll look around and say, 'Where's my weapon?'"

A few laugh, and many soldiers nod their heads in agreement, having already experienced the phenomenon.

"Do you remember the safety briefing you received before you left country?" I continue. "Do you remember being told to not drive your car the first few weeks after you return home? You were told that it would take awhile to get used to driving on American roads again. What's the first thing that you're going to do when you get home?"

I pull my keys out of my pocket and hold them up.

"Drive your car! I know. I did the same thing. But let me tell you what one soldier shared with me a year ago after one of these briefings. He was

an MP in Iraq running convoy security. He remembers being told about not driving when he first got home. But like all of us, he got in his car anyway. He was driving with his family down the highway. They were passing a truck when one of the truck's tires had a blowout. Boom!

"He said, 'Chaplain, I don't know what happened next. My wife said I drove down the center line of the road in excess of 100 miles an hour yelling, 'Status! Status! Status!' I eventually pulled off to the side of the road and stopped. My heart was racing. I realized that I could have killed my family. I had no idea that that would happen!'"

I tell the audience that we all have triggers, and we just don't know where and when they'll hit.

"These next few months will be the most dangerous ones of your deployment," I say. "For over a year, you have been living in a highly structured environment. Safety was stressed, and everyone had a routine. That's all gone now. When you go home, you will no longer live in an environment where you have to think about everything that you're going to do. You'll let your guard down, and that's when accidents happen. You need to continue to stay alert when you go home."

Then comes a big question: "How many of you are married?"

After the hands go up, I tell a story about a soldier I met on my first deployment. "He was going home on his two-week mid-tour leave. He didn't realize he had a Polaroid snapshot of his house in his brain when he left, and he naturally expected to walk back into that same picture when he returned home. What do you think his wife did while he was away? She rearranged the furniture. When he got home and opened the door, he said that he had to stop and visually rearrange the picture in his brain. In the few seconds he

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WARRIOR ADVENTURE QUEST

The high adrenaline and anxiety of combat can be hard to shake. Returning troops often need an outlet. Warrior Adventure Quest offers stress management through extreme sports like mountain biking, rock climbing, bungee jumping, kayaking and other activities.

Camp Atterbury was the first National Guard and reserve mobilization post to introduce the program, which is now in use at 39 Army installations worldwide. Four paintball courses, a 3.8-mile mountain-bike trail and alpine towers with suspended rope systems are among the attractions in place or under construction there, to go along with canoe trips on Big Blue River and a 30-foot rock-climbing wall (left).

took to look around the house, what do you think his wife was thinking? 'You don't like it.'

"The soldier said, 'Chaplain, what she did looked nice. Unfortunately, she didn't believe me. We had a rough few moments.'

I continue. "If it doesn't have an adverse effect on the global war on terror, let it go. When you return home, expect that things will have changed. Your kids have grown. The house has new furniture. In the overall scheme of things, it doesn't matter. You're home. Just smile and say, 'Honey, I love what you've done to the place.'"

THE TIP OF THE SUPPORT SPEAR. At the end of my briefing, I add one more thing. "Every town in every state has this resource for you called an American Legion post. They are there for you. It's a safe place for you to go and talk about your experiences. Everyone in there has been in a similar situation. They understand. They have veterans-service officers who are there to help guide you through the VA process and help you get the benefits that you've earned. With that, I want to say, 'Thank you for your service, and God bless your return home.'"

The next three days are filled with medical and dental checks, visits with behavioral-health counselors and chaplains, finance and legal paperwork. Then, after four days of processing, the soldiers receive their DD 214s – or, as most soldiers like to call them, "the golden ticket home."

Soldiers returning home face a number of complex issues. For most, the experience overseas was positive. Many volunteer to go again. A deployment is a great way to earn extra money and pay off bills, especially in an uncertain economy. It also increases opportunities for benefits from VA and other government entities.

What we have learned recently, after much study, is that key factors in soldier suicides and other

post-deployment problems are personal relationships and the economy. Many volunteer to deploy because they need work. Once a deployment is over, they again face unemployment. That's one reason soldiers go on one deployment after another.

Some don't have the family or home they left when they deployed. Divorce is not uncommon among returning soldiers. And sometimes it comes as a total surprise to him or her. I've personally counseled soldiers who had no idea there were any problems at home. To expect a hero's welcome, only to find the locks changed on the doors, is a shock beyond words. While these situations are few, they are devastating for those who experience them.

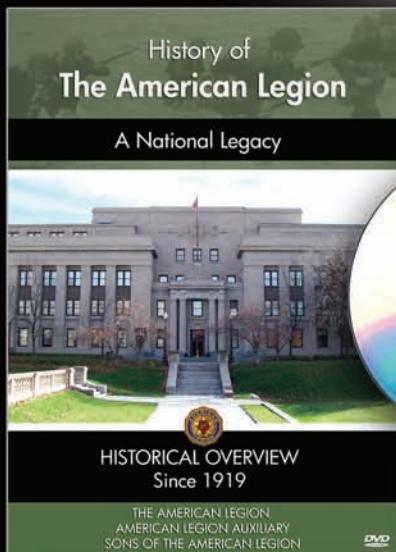
Units and their commanders face enormous challenges caring for soldiers after they return from combat, the Guard and Army Reserve especially. Some units are composed of soldiers from several different states. When they come home, they usually disperse and have little to no more contact with their buddies. Unit cohesion no longer exists. For many, the return home is a personal and often lonely journey.

That's why I strongly encourage returning servicemembers to check in with their local American Legion posts as soon as they are home. The Legion is often the only organization in a Guardsman or reservist's town that resembles his or her unit. Veterans-service organizations are, indeed, the tip of the spear in the battle to help returning veterans resume their civilian lives. The challenge is in finding creative ways to build bridges between the posts and those who are returning home, looking for someone who understands the extraordinary shift from deployment to demob and home again. ¶

Lt. Col. Eric L. Ebb is an Army National Guard installation chaplain stationed at Camp Atterbury, Ind.

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The Federal Hiring Gauntlet

Veterans face roadblocks to getting jobs with the government they defended.

BY KEN OLSEN

More than **21 percent** of veterans ages **18 to 24** were **unemployed** in **2009**, outpacing the **jobless** rate of their **civilian** counterparts.

Ron Conley approached VA representatives about an employment fair scheduled in Pittsburgh in November and asked if they would be taking applications for VA jobs at the event. The answer was a perplexing “no.”

“They told me that would be an injustice to veterans because they don’t have their completed applications with them,” says Conley, a past national commander of The American Legion and manager of the Allegheny County, Pa., Veterans Affairs Office. “They want to sit there and preach how good veterans are for employers, but they don’t want to take applications from veterans.”

This sort of hurdle is common for returning servicemembers, who find great frustration in their searches for government jobs despite a veterans-preference hiring law dating to the mid-1940s, a slew of “hire vets” slogans, and promises from politicians and agency chiefs. A government hiring guide acknowledges the complexity of a federal job search, then blames the problem on fairness rules. The Obama administration has even convened a task force to try to revamp the process.

Meanwhile, more than 21 percent of veterans ages 18 to 24 were unemployed in 2009, outpacing the civilian jobless rate. The official statistics likely underestimate the problem, because a large number of returning servicemembers

don’t file for unemployment but stay with family or friends and live off their savings while they search for work.

“I think it’s far worse than folks see,” says Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran Tim Embree, a Legionnaire and a legislative associate with Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA). “And I think with this wave of veterans coming home from Iraq – and potentially from a drawdown in Afghanistan – the problem is going to be worse than anyone can imagine.”

Urban Myth. Veterans are surprised at how difficult it is to land a job once they leave the military. Tom Tarantino and his fellow soldiers talked optimistically about the opportunities that awaited them once they finished their tour with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in Iraq in 2005 and 2006. That vaporized when Tarantino left the Army a year later.

“It’s an urban myth that if you have been in the military, it’s really easy to get a job,” says Tarantino, also a Legionnaire and a senior legislative associate for IAVA.

“I spent a very painful 10 months looking for work. Usually, I would get to the offer stage, and they would go with someone who had no military experience but had a master’s degree, or had been in the company a long time.”

He realized he was in trouble when a prospective employer, who was looking for a small-factory manager, cautioned him that he would have to oversee 30 people.

Tarantino commanded 50 soldiers in combat as a platoon leader

and 400 soldiers as acting company commander.

“At first I thought it was funny,” Tarantino says. “Then I realized I was in trouble. I had been sitting

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2000	219,547	58,618	26.7
2001	225,893	59,876	26.5
2002	222,985	58,355	26.2
2003	230,406	59,153	25.7
2004	236,427	59,563	25.2
2005	235,210	58,501	24.9
2006	239,864	59,594	24.8
2007	254,183	78,134	30.7
2008	278,566	83,026	29.8
2009*	296,781	88,021	29.7
2010**	304,751	90,565	29.7

* Does not include employees at VA Inspector General’s office for years 2008-2010.

** Through July 31, 2010.

Source: VA



■ FREE MIRACLE HEATERS ARE ON THE WAY: Everyone wants to stay warm and save money on their heat bills this winter. These trucks are being loaded full of Heat Surge infrared miracle heaters and soon will be ready to go. The new Heat Surge infrared heater is a real steal at just two hundred ninety-eight dollars and shipping because the first 17,247 readers who call 1-866-964-4768 to beat the 7 day order deadline for their first Heat Surge infrared heater are actually getting their second infrared heater absolutely free.

Public has just 7 days to get free heaters

A new infrared miracle heater is actually being given away free to the first 17,247 readers who call to beat the deadline to order their first miracle heater that drastically slashes home heat bills

Save money: uses about the same electric as a coffee maker, so turn your thermostat way down and never be cold again

By R.K. BERRY
Universal Media Syndicate

UMS – Have you heard about the free heater give-away that's sweeping across the nation?

Well listen up because here it is and we'll even give you the number to call.

Starting at precisely 8:30am this morning, brand new infrared miracle heaters are actually being given away free to the general public for the next 7 days.

The only thing today's readers need to do is call the Toll Free Hotline before the

deadline to order their first Heat Surge infrared miracle heater. The first 17,247 readers who do will instantly be awarded their second Heat Surge infrared miracle heater absolutely free.

This is all happening to announce the new Heat Surge infrared miracle heater which actually goes from room-to-room so you can turn your thermostat way down and never be cold again. That way, everyone who gets them first can immediately start saving on their heat bills.

Just in time for the bitter

cold winter weather, new infrared miracle heaters are being delivered directly to the doors of all those who beat the deadline.

These remarkable new infrared heaters are being called a miracle because they have the patent pending *Fireless Flame*® technology that gives you the peaceful flicker of a real fire but without any flames, fumes, ashes or mess.

They are so compact they go anywhere, yet they throw off an instant heat wave in any room and only use about the same electric as a coffee

maker. That makes the first Heat Surge infrared miracle heater a real steal for just two hundred ninety-eight dollars and shipping on each since the entire cost of the second miracle heater is free. Everyone is getting them because all you do is plug them in.

“And here’s the best part. Everyone who gets one of the world famous Amish fireplace mantles that are beautifully hand-rubbed, stained and varnished right in the heart of Amish country for just two hundred ninety-eight dollars is ac-

tually getting their second Amish fireplace mantle absolutely free. That makes any room you put them in instantly look like a million bucks," said Laura Rich, Operations Director.

The Amish mantle actually lets the new infrared miracle heater roll from room-to-room so it's easy to stay warm in any room of the house for just pennies a day.

"You see, with your furnace you are paying to heat areas of your home that you're not using. And since the new infrared miracle heater only uses about 9¢ an hour of electricity on the standard setting, the potential energy savings are absolutely incredible," said Rich.

"We're trying to make



AMISH QUALITY: Amish craftsmen take great pride in their workmanship. Each Amish fireplace mantle is hand crafted to the highest standards and is built to last a lifetime. With four finishes to choose from they are sure to make any room look like a million bucks.



SAFE: The new Heat Surge infrared heater looks so real it fools everyone but there is no real fire. So you don't have to worry because the flame window is safe to the touch. It's where the kids will play and the cat and dog will sleep.

sure no one gets left out, but you better hurry because we only have 17,247 infrared miracle heaters to hand out to today's readers for free. For now, readers can have two free per household just as long as they call before the deadline," confirms Rich.

Getting the Heat Surge infrared miracle heater is the smart way to slash winter heat bills and still stay warm all winter long. And getting the second one free is like putting three hundred bucks in your pocket and you can save even more on your monthly heat bills.

"We're bracing ourselves for all the calls because everyone wants to save on their heat bills and stay warm this winter. But those that really want to save a ton



SAVES ON BILLS: Everyone gets lower heat bills and still stays warm. The new Heat Surge infrared heater only uses 9¢ an hour of electricity on standard setting, yet blasts out an instant heat wave in any room to keep you warm all day long for just pennies.



FREE AMISH MANTLE: Readers who claim their miracle heaters are also getting their first hand-made Amish fireplace mantle for a real steal at just two hundred ninety-eight dollars because everyone is actually getting their second Amish mantle absolutely free.

will be telling our operators they want two and they'll get two free," said Rich.

"So when the lines are busy keep trying. We promise to get every call. Then we'll have a delivery truck out to you in no time at all so you can stay warm and start

saving on your heat bills right away," Rich said.

"You'll instantly feel the bone soothing heat in any room. You will never have to be cold and miserable again," she said. ■

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How to get your free heater

Readers need to call the Toll Free Hotlines beginning at 8:30am this morning. If lines are busy keep trying, all calls will be answered.

The first 17,247 readers who beat the 7 day order deadline to cover the cost of just their first Heat Surge infrared miracle heater and shipping on each get their second Heat Surge infrared heater absolutely free.

They have imposed a strict limit of 2 free infrared heaters per household. So, readers need to hurry and call now because there are only 17,247 Heat Surge miracle heaters to be given away free, when they're gone, they're gone.

They are also letting the first 17,247 readers who cover the cost of their first Amish fireplace mantle get their second Amish fireplace mantle absolutely free. So everyone can roll the new infrared miracle heater from room-to-room and save tons of money on heat bills this winter.

Use the map below to find the weather zone you live in and call the number for your zone.

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there talking to the guy for 20 minutes – going over my résumé, explaining what I had done. It was like teaching French to a guy from Mars."

The federal government, on the other hand, is compelled by law to offer veterans an easier path to post-military employment. The government has more than 400 occupational specialties, the most of any U.S. employer. And VA is one of the largest veteran employers.

"Veterans prefer to stay with the government," says Joe Sharpe, director of The American Legion's Economic Division. "The jobs are often similar to what they had in the military. The benefits are good, the work is stable, and they feel that is a better fit for their family." After nine years of fighting two wars and serving numerous combat deployments, military families need such stability, Sharpe says.

Returning servicemembers, however, are discouraged by a byzantine federal-application process, and never reach the interview stage. One of the most formidable hurdles, they say, is the website USAJobs.gov, the mandatory entry point for seeking federal work. The job descriptions posted there are voluminous. A maintenance mechanic's job at the Pentagon fills six pages. The computerized application itself is long and complex. Veterans also have to fill out other forms and supply additional documentation to claim a veterans-preference status that they suspect is overlooked or ignored.

"It's needless and bureaucratic," Tarantino says.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE			
Fiscal year	Total DoD employment	Number of employees with prior military service	Veteran percentage
2004	622,962	262,218	42
2005	628,021	269,584	43
2006	628,762	274,160	43.6
2007	623,867	274,327	44
2008	644,807	284,620	44
2009	687,306	305,709	44.5
2010	725,767	326,483	45

Source: Department of Defense

"You had to have eight hours to spend filling out an application. And you knew you wouldn't get a call back."

Barry Searle, a retired Army colonel and infantry combat veteran with a master's degree and a decade of experience as a pharmaceutical sales and marketing director, applied for more than 70 positions through USAJobs.gov between 2007 and 2009. He couldn't even land an interview for front-desk security guard at an Army maintenance facility, says Searle, director of the Legion's National Security & Foreign Relations Division.

It's a jarring welcome home for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, who have a higher unemployment rate than any other veteran group. "A lot of these men and women come back and see this process and think it's insane," says Embree, who served with the Marines in Iraq. "And they are right."

Once Burned. The federal hiring gauntlet is equally depressing for veterans who left the service before 9/11. Allen Dinning was medically discharged from the Air Force because of a knee problem in 1986. The disabled veteran became a respiratory therapist 14 years ago, after trying his hand at other careers.

"My dream job would be to work at VA with my fellow veterans," Dinning says. He applied at a Pennsylvania VA hospital four years ago. Although Dinning had a decade of experience, VA passed him over but hired four co-workers from the hospital where he worked. None had served in the military. A VA human-resources recruiter told him there is no veterans preference for health-care workers, he says.

Now 47 and unemployed, Dinning has applied for six different VA positions, including clerical jobs, "just to get my foot in the door. I'm at the point where I'm going to apply for housekeeping."

Kent Weaver left the Navy in 1995 after a 10-year career, to spend more time with his only child. He put on a suit and tie and visited the state employment office in Columbia, S.C., expecting to get help with his résumé and leads on good jobs. Instead, the employment representative told him he didn't qualify for any veterans

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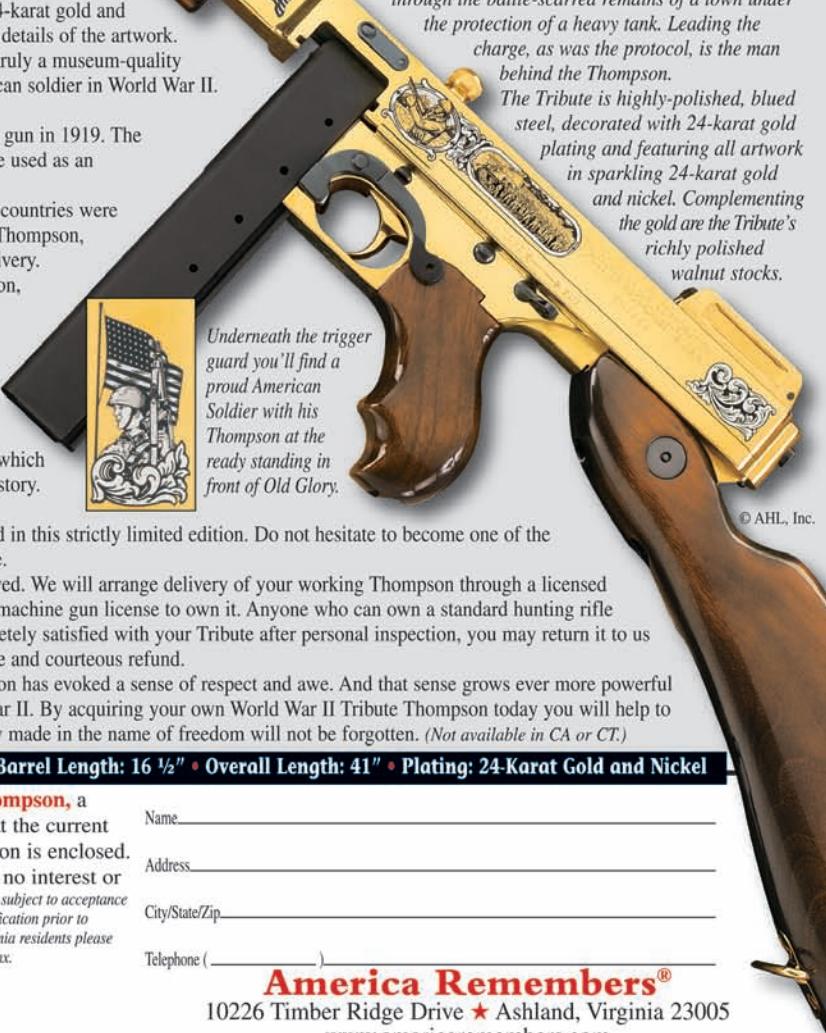


Right side of the receiver features Marines sweeping across Okinawa, routing the last of the Japanese forces. On the right corner of the scene, a Marine lays down a hail of cover fire from his Tommy gun. Also featured on the right is a battle-ready American Soldier brandishing his Thompson. On each side of the receiver is the American flag, waving proudly in the wind.



Left side of the receiver features a combat-ready Soldier brandishing his mighty Thompson. The iconic image of an American infantryman and his legendary Tommy gun became a rallying symbol for the Allied cause. Also featured is an incredibly detailed scene of an infantry regiment advancing through the battle-scarred remains of a town under the protection of a heavy tank. Leading the charge, as was the protocol, is the man behind the Thompson.

The Tribute is highly-polished, blued steel, decorated with 24-karat gold plating and featuring all artwork in sparkling 24-karat gold and nickel. Complementing the gold are the Tribute's richly polished walnut stocks.



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It also takes **six to eight months** for the federal **government** to **hire** someone after it receives an application. **By that time**, “most **veterans** have taken **another job**.”

Joe Sharpe, director of The American Legion’s Economic Division

programs, handed him a business card for the West Columbia Police Department and told him to go be a cop. He received a similar brush off from the local VA.

“Being in the Navy didn’t mean anything,” Weaver says. “I was so mad I threw the card away and swore I would never go into a government office looking for help again.”

Weaver delivered windshields for \$7 an hour, then worked as a corrections officer, a landscaper and a beverage-truck driver. He shattered his elbow working in a lumberyard four years ago and has been unemployed since. Weaver and his wife moved home to Pennsylvania, where he ventured back into a state employment office in desperation. The veterans representative he’s dealing with now is going out of his way to help, Weaver says. It’s help he could have used 15 years ago.

“I could have gone to work for the federal government when I got out if I hadn’t been lied to by the South Carolina Job Service representative that day,” Weaver says.

Iraq and Afghanistan veterans are running into similar obstacles with USAJobs. “It’s like, ‘I’m over here fighting for you and you send me to a website that’s going to take me forever to figure out?’” Weaver says.

The online application process is only part of the problem. There’s confusion as to whether applicants have to include “Key Skills Assessments” – a written summary of their knowledge, skills and abilities. Weaver, who recently used USAJobs to apply for a job, received a tip from VA that he needed to include that information. “But there was nothing on USAJobs that told me I had to do that.”

It also takes six to eight months for the federal government to hire someone after it receives an application. By that time, “most veterans have taken another job,” Sharpe says.

Veterans who have had mental-health counseling are deterred by security clearance requirements for federal positions in the Department of Defense, says Rachel Natelson, a volunteer legal adviser with the Service Women’s Action Network (SWAN).

“One issue that arises: ‘Have you ever sought mental-health counseling?’” Natelson says. Rule changes in recent years mean servicemembers who have received counseling because of combat trauma don’t have to report it. However, those who received counseling because of sexual harassment or sexual assault do have to report assistance they received.

“A lot of women are so afraid of the consequences of having counseling they don’t seek counseling or they don’t bother applying for federal jobs,”

Natelson says. “And this doesn’t apply exclusively to women veterans.”

SWAN supports efforts to persuade DoD to stop requiring veterans to disclose counseling for sexual assault or sexual harassment. Meanwhile, women veterans there are floundering in the job market because VA counseling and treatment that would help them re-integrate is often difficult to obtain or

geared for male veterans, Natelson says.

“Unemployment among veterans hasn’t been tied to the economic downturn alone. It’s tied to larger social issues, things like benefits and counseling,” Natelson says. “This will be a bigger and bigger

VETERANS EMPLOYED BY DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY		
Fiscal year	Total DHS employment	Number of veteran employees
2003	81,253	18,523
2004	97,389	19,277
2005	163,478	34,172
2006	169,964	40,399
2007	166,498	41,939
2008	178,488	44,423
2009	188,092	46,961
2010 *	189,837	47,408

*As of July 31, 2010.

Source: Department of Homeland Security

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"We are **generating homeless** at a rate about **four times greater** than we did in **Vietnam.**"

Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

problem as more and more veterans come back."

All the hurdles don't make for a better federal work force. A study released in August by the Partnership for Public Service and a private human-resources consulting company found that the federal government is doing a poor job of evaluating job applicants. The study singled out factors such as flawed computer systems that stymie a federal agency's ability to evaluate applicants. Other factors included poor coordination among hiring managers, human resource offices, agency chiefs and the Office of Personnel Management (OPM).

Wired to Serve. The unemployment issue has captured the attention of Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. "We've got over a million who are returning from these wars and whose American dream hasn't changed a bit," Mullen said in a speech to the Executive Club in Chicago in August. "They are flat-out wired to contribute, flat-out wired to serve."

The consequences of not dealing with the needs of returning servicemembers, he added, are already appearing. "We are generating homeless at a rate about four times greater than we did in Vietnam."

There are signs the federal government is addressing the problem. Last year, President

Obama directed his agency chiefs to do a better job of hiring qualified veterans, and many have responded with initiatives to remove some of the hurdles.

Assistant Labor Secretary Ray Jefferson is drawing praise for his efforts to revamp the federal hiring process. OPM, meanwhile, persuaded seven federal agencies to reserve 600 jobs for qualified veteran applicants in advance of a job and hiring fair at The American Legion's 92nd National Convention in Milwaukee earlier this year.

Job descriptions were distributed to veterans across the country through the Department of Labor, state employment agencies and veterans service organizations such as the Legion two weeks prior to the convention, to give veterans time to apply.

Nearly 170 veterans met with U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials at the convention, says Joe Arata, assistant director for national recruitment at the agency.

"We've greatly expanded our reach beyond what you would consider traditional veterans hiring," Arata says. As a result, 22 percent of new applicants for Border Protection jobs are veterans. And 31 percent of new hires in fiscal 2010 are veterans.

OPM also sent a trainer to the Legion's convention workshops to help veterans submit polished applications for federal jobs, and has a task force working to improve USAJobs.gov. Sharpe credits the Obama administration and John Barry, director of OPM, for starting to make these strides.

"They are making good on their promise," Sharpe says. "I've never seen anything like it."

There's far more than jobs at stake, Embree adds. "We're at a crossroads," he says. "If you get veterans back into the economy, you are going to solve a lot of the problems you are going to see down the road, such as homelessness and suicides. The time for talk is over. This administration and this Congress need to step up and show today's veterans they have their back." ☰

Ken Olsen is a frequent contributor to The American Legion Magazine.

* As of July 31, 2010.

Source: Department of Homeland Security

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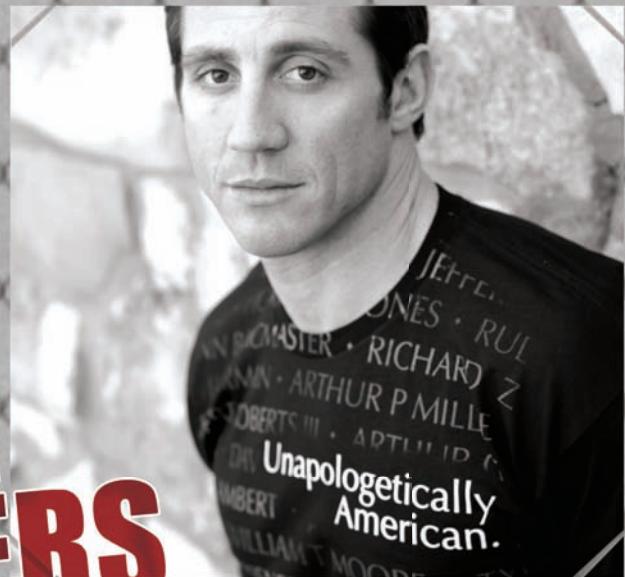
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SOLDIERS ON HIS SHOULDERS



MMA fighter Tim Kennedy puts the spotlight on the military, inside and outside the ring. **BY KELLY CRIGGER**

A standout athlete whose only real ambition was a career in cage fighting, Tim Kennedy enlisted as a Special Forces soldier after 9/11 and experienced firsthand the ego-shattering humility associated with being part of an elite unit in combat. After five years, he'd earned a Bronze Star for valor under fire while simultaneously punching, kicking and grappling his way to a winning record in mixed martial arts (MMA) fighting. But in 2008, Kennedy had to choose between two successful careers. He was a highly trained and combat-tested sniper who was in his physical prime and ready for a run at a championship belt. That's when the Army National Guard's 19th Special Forces Group gave Kennedy the opportunity to remain a Green Beret while pursuing his dream of being an MMA world champion. He recently spoke with *The American Legion Magazine* about his passion as a soldier and a fighter.

Q: You wanted to enlist after 9/11 but waited until 2003, when the Army announced the 18X-Ray program, allowing you to enlist directly in the Special Forces. What drew you to the Green Berets?

A: Not that an infantryman or tanker is not special, because they are, but with my personality and how I am, I wanted to be in it. I wanted the military life to be in my face. I wanted to be where the action was. First I went to the Navy to be a SEAL, then I went to the Marines to be Force Recon, and did a bunch of research on all three of them and the Air Force PJs (pararescue jumpers). After thinking about it all, I knew I wanted to be in Special Forces because of the type of people they have there.

Q: And what type of people are those?

A: Well, the very first time I really got legitimately shot at, I was coming into a hot LZ on the side of a Black Hawk in Iraq, and there was a PKM and AK-47s that started lighting us up. They couldn't see us because we were blacked out, but you could hear the rounds snapping by your head. And as soon as we got off, every dude there started running toward the muzzle flashes, including me. I didn't know what I was going to do up to that point once I got shot at, but there I was, running with everyone else toward the enemy. I knew right there I was in the right place, because I was doing what they were doing.



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Q: What was your first impression of Special Forces?

A: It humbled me. We had a senior 18C named Mario who was fast. I mean, really fast. I was running around 12 minutes for two miles when I joined, and I couldn't keep up with him. I was like, "What is going on?" The first time we were out on the range, I scored in the 80s, and everyone else was in the high 90s – and I'm a good shot! It motivated me. I wanted to catch up to where these guys were so I could hold my own.

Q: You tried hard to stay on active duty while being a professional fighter, but it didn't work out. How disappointing was that?

A: I tried to figure out a way for two or three years to train and fight and travel while staying on active duty in Special Forces, and after roadblock after roadblock and extension after extension, I had to (do it or not). I knew I wanted to fight. I knew I needed to fight. But I knew I only had four or five years left in my athletic prime, so I had to get in there and fight before it passed me by.

Q: Why did you feel you needed to fight?

A: I think I'm a pretty talented operator, and I'm a good soldier, but I believe I can make a bigger difference for Special Forces, the Army, and my family in the ring than I could outside of it.

Q: You fought a few times while on active duty, but they were few and far between. How did being on active duty prohibit you from fighting?

A: My commanders never objected to me fighting, but deployments and schools got in the way of training, so there just wasn't enough time in the day for me to be a Green Beret and a good one, and a fighter and a good one, too.

Q: How supportive is your current unit, the 19th Special Forces Group?

A: It's ideal. I just fought, so now I'll do military-centric stuff for a few months like airborne jumps, sniper training, and getting back on the long gun. I really love it and would miss it if I wasn't in a position to go to the gym in the morning and then go to the range in the afternoon.



Kelly Crigger

Q: You normally weigh 220 pounds, but fight at 185 pounds. How hard is it to make that weight cut?

A: It sucks. It's compounded by how much I love to eat. The only times I see 185 pounds are when I'm seriously in a calorie deficit, so it's painful.

Q: Do you still want to make a difference not just as a fighter, but as an operator too?

A: Definitely. I think I'll go back to the military and finish my career when I'm done fighting.

Q: Do troops ever approach you and ask to train with you?

A: Yeah. A ton. I accommodate them whenever I can. I went down to Fort Hood and helped get their team ready for the Army Combatives Tournament.

Q: You always dedicate your fights to the men and women of the U.S. military serving overseas. Why?

A: For me, having the opportunity to be in the ring and grab a microphone and say whatever I want is because we have people in uniform keeping the bad guys over there instead of fighting them here. If we didn't have them, and they didn't do what they do, we wouldn't have any of the things we have here, including mixed martial arts. ☺

Kelly Crigger is a lieutenant colonel in the Army assigned to Fort Belvoir, Va. He is the author of three books on mixed martial arts, and his articles have appeared in Military Times, FIGHT! magazine and at MMAJunkie.com. www.kellycrigger.com

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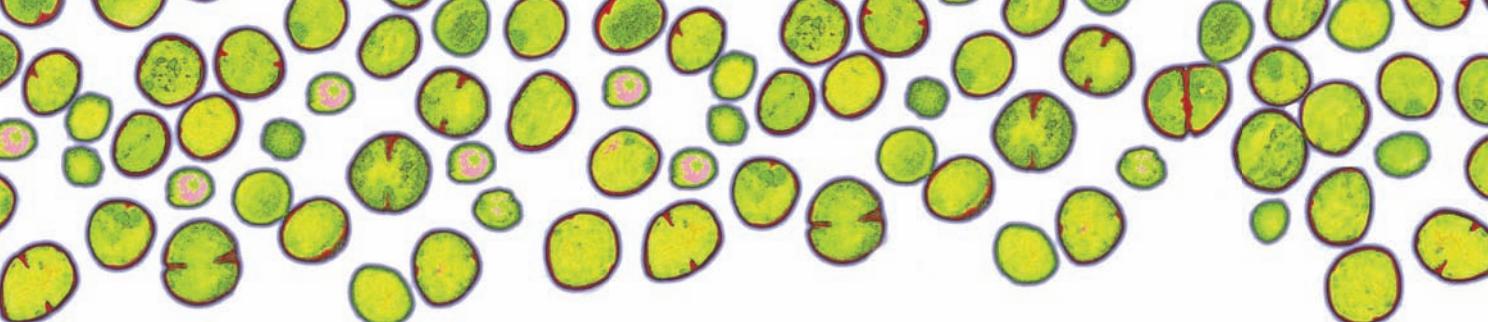
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Flight of the Superbug

VA hospitals set the standard in targeting MRSA.

BY STEPHENIE OVERMAN

VA hospitals have had more than their share of frightening headlines this year – possible HIV and hepatitis exposure due to improperly cleaned equipment, and incorrect radiation doses administered for prostate-cancer treatment. But in the area of battling a dangerous superbug – a type of bacteria that has become resistant to many antibiotics – VA is getting rave reviews. As the *Las Vegas Sun* declared, “VA System Stanching MRSA.”

MRSA is methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, a potentially deadly type of staph infection found in hospitals. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the superbug is one of the most rapidly growing infections associated with health-care facilities, with nearly 100,000 people a year developing serious cases. In 2005, approximately 18,650 Americans died during hospital stays related to MRSA infections.

But the rate at which patients contract the germ is declining, dropping 28 percent between 2005 and 2008, the *Journal of the American Medical Association* reported in its Aug. 11 issue.

VA’s Pittsburgh Healthcare System went on the defensive against MRSA in 2002, focusing on basic hygiene. Its pilot program reduced infections by 50 percent, as hospital personnel monitored all incoming patients in key units with nasal swabs and cultures for the superbug. They treated patients with MRSA by taking special precautions.

The key was cultural transformation, says Dr. Rajiv Jain, program director for “Zeroing in on MRSA,” VA’s prevention initiative. “We engaged employees,” he says. “We listened to their ideas and their concerns. We removed barriers to making their work as successful as possible.”

Key staff members from 17 VA hospitals went to Pittsburgh for training, where they were given flexibility in designing their own MRSA prevention programs. “We told them what needed to get done, but how it got done was left to them,” because the culture in every hospital is different, Jains says.

VA used the same approach when rolling out the MRSA initiative in its 150 hospitals nationwide.

“It would be too presumptuous to take much credit” for the recent decline in “invasive” MRSA infections born in health-care facilities, Jain says, but he believes VA’s efforts have drawn needed attention to the problem.

VA’s prevention program is viewed by many consumer advocates as the “gold standard” in MRSA, says Dr. Kevin Kavanagh, who heads the patient-advocacy organization Health Watch USA. “The Pittsburgh VA hospital had very good results at a time when other institutions were having an increase (in MRSA) ... We’re starting to see a drop. A lot has to do with attention drawn to the problem, along with groundwork done at VA facilities.”

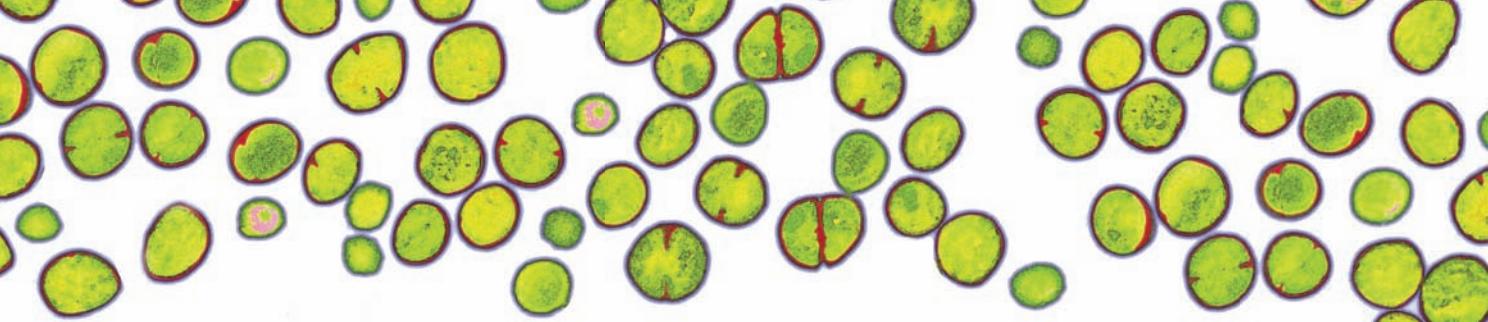
More hospitals are using a search-and-contain approach, says Dr. Stephen Streed, system director of epidemiology/infection prevention at Lee Memorial Health System in Fort Myers, Fla., and board member of the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology.

He agrees that VA is the tip of the spear in the fight against MRSA. In fact, when Streed’s hospital tried to order screening tests for the superbug, “we had to wait because VA had ordered so many.”

Other Superbugs. MRSA is just one of a number of superbugs threatening people’s health. *Clostridium difficile*, known as C. diff, causes 500,000 infections each year, resulting in nearly 30,000 deaths, says Dr. L. Clifford McDonald of the CDC.

C. diff, which causes diarrhea and more serious intestinal conditions such as colitis, is difficult to kill. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers don’t do the job. Hands need to be washed with soap and water, and hospital patients with C. diff may need to be isolated from other patients, Jains says.

Working with the CDC, VA is in the final stages of putting together a plan to fight C. diff that is similar to its MRSA program, he adds.



While *C. diff* is the current problem bug, others are on the horizon. One, known as NDM-1, has been found in patients in South Asia and Britain. Also worrisome are what are called ESBL-producing organisms, which are generally resistant to many classes of antibiotics.

Deadly organisms evolve faster than pharmaceutical companies can develop expensive new drugs to fight them, Streed says. "There's always a lag time between when an organism develops and the next generation of antibiotics. When (organisms) reach critical mass in a given area, it takes no time for them to travel."

Antibiotic Stewardship. The growing resistance to antibiotics is one of the greatest threats to public health worldwide, according to ReAct – Action on Antibiotic Resistance, an international organization working to increase awareness of the threat and promote research innovations. Researchers, politicians and representatives from public-health organizations and the pharmaceutical industry met in Uppsala, Sweden, in September to discuss global strategies for reducing unnecessary antibiotic use and developing new medicines.

In the meantime, individuals and health-care providers should take steps to practice what Streed calls "antibiotic stewardship."

For individuals, this means understanding that antibiotics are not a cure-all for illnesses. Types of bacteria become resistant to treatment because of overuse of antibiotics in an attempt to treat common colds, sore throats and the flu. Such viral infections are not cured by antibiotics.

For health-care providers, this means carefully controlling use of the drugs. "If you do that, you can follow and control the development of resistant organisms," Streed says. "VA hospitals have been doing it for a long time."

Besides using antibiotics wisely, there are other steps people can take to protect themselves and others from superbugs. First, speak up. At VA hospitals, "we have brought it into our culture so that it will not be offensive to ask people if they have washed their hands," Jains says.

And don't expect doctors and nurses to do all the hand-washing. "You can do hand hygiene," Jains says. "Remember the rules we learned when we were kids. Wash your hands."

Also, "patients need to move from being passive to being more of a partner" with health-care providers, Kavanagh says. For example, if a person will be undergoing surgery, he can lower his risk of infection by washing with antibacterial soap before he enters the hospital.

Finally, when going into a hospital or health-care facility, he adds, consider asking someone to be a health-care advocate, perhaps a family member, "to make sure you are clean and kept clean." 

Stephenie Overman is the author of "Next-Generation Wellness at Work" (Praeger, 2009).

HOW TO PREVENT CA-MRSA

CA-MRSA, or community-associated MRSA, is a MRSA infection in a healthy person who has not been hospitalized or had a medical procedure in the past year. According to the New York Department of Health, outbreaks have occurred among athletes, military recruits, day care attendees, injection-drug users and others who live in crowded settings and/or routinely share contaminated items.

The Mayo Clinic offers these prevention tips:

Wash your hands. Scrub hands briskly for at least 15 seconds, then dry them with a disposable towel, and use another towel to turn off the faucet. Carry a small bottle of hand sanitizer containing at least 60 percent alcohol, for times when you don't have access to soap and water.

Keep wounds covered. Keep cuts and abrasions clean and covered with sterile, dry bandages until they heal. The pus from infected sores may contain MRSA, and keeping wounds covered will help keep the bacteria from spreading.

Keep personal items personal. Avoid sharing items such as towels, sheets, razors, clothing and athletic equipment. MRSA spreads by contaminated objects as well as by direct contact.

Shower after athletic games or practices. Shower immediately after each game or practice. Use soap and water.

Sanitize linens. If you have a cut or sore, wash towels and bed linens in a washing machine set to the hottest water setting (with added bleach, if possible) and dry them in a hot dryer.

 www.preventinfection.org

 www.reactgroup.org

Custom Medical Stock

Eric Fisher Wood

Architect, soldier designed American Legion emblem.

When Eric Fisher Wood brought the gavel down at The American Legion's first caucus in March 1919, he called to order a remarkable 1,000 delegates from every part of the American Expeditionary Force, from private to brigadier general.

The seeds of the historic assembly had been planted two months earlier, when Wood sat in a Paris café with George A. White, William J. Donovan and Theodore Roosevelt Jr., all combat-tested officers who were eager to establish an organization for veterans of every rank, one celebrating their bond of wartime service.

As the Legion's first national secretary (now called the national adjutant), Wood already enjoyed some prestige. He'd served as an officer with the American Ambulance Corps in France in 1915, and as a major in the British Army when he was wounded by a shell fragment at the Battle of Arras in 1917. Wood was then commissioned as a major in the U.S. Army, assigned to the 88th Division as assistant chief of staff, and promoted to lieutenant colonel. In November 1918, he survived gassing at Lake La Chaussée.

Between wars, Wood grew his own architectural firm, designing many of Pittsburgh's office and academic buildings. He wrote extensively, authoring the "Note-Book of an Attaché" (1915), "Note-Book of an Intelligence Officer" (1917) and "Leonard Wood, Conservator of Americanism" (1920). He also penned articles for *Century*, *The Saturday Evening Post*, the *London Times* and other periodicals.

During World War II, Wood returned to military service as a brigadier general on Gen. Dwight Eisenhower's staff. His son, 1st Lt. Eric Fisher Wood Jr., was killed during the Battle of the Bulge and posthumously received the Distinguished Service Cross.

Twice in the 1950s, Legionnaires gave Wood the honorary title of past national commander, recognizing his central role in planning the Paris and St. Louis caucuses. The preamble to the Legion's constitution includes much of the language of his keynote speech at the Paris caucus. He also designed and patented The American Legion emblem, and sold the patent to the Legion for the sum of \$1.

Throughout his life, Wood called for a strong national security. "It would be a sin of omission for me to neglect to sound again that oft-repeated warning against the dangers of military unpreparedness which has been so vainly sounded since the

birth of our nation by every American, great or small, who has known or seen anything of actual war conditions," he wrote in 1915.

A year later, he continued on that theme, saying that "to muzzle our experts on national safety is almost as ridiculous as it would be to force the Doctors May to keep silent on surgery, or to forbid Edison to speak about electricity."

— Paul Fedorchak



The dossier

Born to William and Frances Wood in New York City on Jan. 4, 1889.

Attended Yale University, the Columbia University School of Architecture and the École des Beaux Arts in Paris.

Commissioned as Army major in August 1917. Wounded and gassed in the Meuse-Argonne on Armistice Day.

Received the Legion of Merit and the Croix de Guerre.

Married Vera de Ropp on April 20, 1918, and had three children.

Prepared, signed and distributed "Call for the Paris Caucus," the first written American Legion document.

Architect of the Harding Tomb in Marion, Ohio.

Voted past national commander in 1955 and 1958.

Died Oct. 4, 1962, and buried at Arlington National Cemetery.



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Photos courtesy Miller's Vets

/HOMELESSNESS

FORWARD MARCH

Legionnaire's drill team gives homeless veterans pride and purpose.

BY LUANNE RADECKI BLACKBURN

When Robert L. Miller Sr. of South Bend, Ind., saw a photo in a local newspaper of a homeless person sleeping in a wooden crate, he couldn't help but wonder if the man was a veteran.

A conversation with his granddaughter, who works at the city's Center for the Homeless, confirmed that a large number of the center's clients served in the military at one time. Nationally, VA surveys estimate that one-third of all homeless adults are veterans.

A former St. Joseph County Superior Court judge, decorated veteran of World War II and the Korean War, and member of American Legion Post 357, Miller, 90, met with Steve Camilleri, executive director of South Bend's Center for the Homeless, to discuss solutions.

A former Navy officer, Miller wanted to develop esprit de corps among veterans living at the center, using a military motif. He bought some fatigues and recruited others to help build a drill team. In January 2009, 10 men showed up at the first meeting of "Miller's Vets."

The group had an inauspicious start.

"Somebody yelled, 'Forward, march!' and they started around the room, no semblance of anybody in step," Miller says. "I looked over at Danny carrying the flag. I saw his shoulders start to come back. Then I saw his head go up. When he completed that first turn, he was never the same."

That flagbearer was Danny Forrester, a 56-year-old Army veteran. He was a well-paid autoworker with a house and a 401(k), but he was laid off and eventually lost his home to foreclosure. He ended up living on the

street for two years, sleeping under a bridge.

He came to the Center for the Homeless one night to escape the cold, and found more than a warm bed. The center offered a path to help him get back on his feet, and soon he joined Miller's Vets.

"It saved my life," Forrester says.

The drill team's first public event was a Memorial Day parade, where it won first place for marching units.

"At the end of that parade, they weren't the same guys," Miller says. "Their self-esteem started to return." Since then, the group has participated in more than 50 events, including parades, veterans funerals and a dinner honoring Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind.

When a building went up for sale near the Center for the Homeless, Camilleri said he thought it would be a great place to house a center specifically for veterans. Miller didn't hesitate; he bought the building and gave it to the center. Private funds and government grants will pay for renovations and ongoing program support.

The Robert L. Miller Veterans Center is scheduled to open on Veterans Day.

"Judge Miller has made an enormous impact," Camilleri says. "He'll always be remembered for reaching out and saying he wanted to do something for the veterans."

Luanne Radecki Blackburn is a freelance writer in Indianapolis.

 www.millersvets.com

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[VERBATIM]

“This is our first Goldilocks planet – just the right size and the right distance from its sun.”

Paul Butler, an astronomer with the Carnegie Institution of Washington, referring to Gliese 581g, a newly detected planet that could support life

“If *Titanic* had stood still, she would have survived at least until the rescue ship came and no one need have died.”

Louise Patten, granddaughter of *Titanic*’s second officer, on blunders made by the famous steamship’s crew

“Let me be clear: there is no magic bullet, no one climate agreement that will solve everything right now.”

Christiana Figueres, U.N. climate chief, at a conference in China aimed at narrowing differences over how best to battle climate change before a major year-end meeting in Mexico

“I feel that my role as a former president is probably superior to that of other presidents.”

Jimmy Carter, referring to his work with the Carter Center in an interview with NBC News

“What I’ve done isn’t an act of terror. It’s an obligatory religious activity ordered by God.”

Mohammed Sofyan Tsauri, an Indonesian ex-policeman who claims to be linked to al-Qaeda

Source: *The Washington Post, Telegraph, AFP, NBC, Politico, BBC*



[MILITARY AFFAIRS]

HULC, Mosquito, Shredder – a look at tomorrow’s troop technology

FoxNews.com recently offered an over-the-horizon look at technologies the U.S. military is considering in hopes of keeping troops in the field safer:

- **The HULC exoskeleton (right).** “The flexible exoskeleton allows troops to carry as much as 200 pounds of gear over rough terrain by supplementing their muscles.”
- **A situational awareness tracking system.** “It uses video from military drones and creates a log of battlefield threats – and can even flag one particular enemy troop for closer analysis.”



Ashima Devices

■ **Tiny, unmanned helicopters (left) that can be clipped to a soldier’s standard field-gear kit.** “When deployed, they provide a real-time, 3-D view of the battlefield, including what’s around a corner or rooftop, and can even simulate storming a building.”

■ **A tracker that ensures hospitalized troops in a war zone receive the medication they need.** “A radio-frequency (RFID) tag is embedded at each soldier’s bedside, and hospital staff use an RFID reader to make sure they have identified the soldier properly. The system also tracks medical equipment such as IV pumps and monitoring equipment.”

■ **A battleground system that delivers plasma packs, batteries, ammunition, food and other supplies.** The so-called Mosquito delivers GPS-guided containers that can be “deployed from a C-130 airplane and can be sent to a precise spot on the battlefield for a soft landing via a parachute.”

■ **The Phantom Eye drone.** With a 150-foot wingspan, this UAV “is powered by two heavily modified Ford Ranger truck engines. The drone runs on hydrogen fuel and can stay aloft for up to four days – much longer than most of the aerial drones used today.”

■ **An all-terrain individual troop mover (right).** “A combination of a skateboard and a Segway scooter ... the DTV Shredder has a steering handlebar and rugged tracks that can help soldiers ascend a 40-degree ravine or rocket across a sandy escarpment at up to 30 mph.”



[WAR ON TERROR]

RIP, Chaplain Goetz

Army Capt. Dale Goetz of White, S.D., died in a roadside-bomb attack in Afghanistan, becoming the first Army chaplain to be killed in combat since the Vietnam War. Goetz was part of the 4th Infantry Division. He previously served in Iraq. Goetz leaves a wife and three sons behind.

[FOREIGN AFFAIRS]

New partner in the Pacific

Once battlefield foes, the United States and Vietnam are taking their relationship to what Secretary of State Hillary Clinton calls “a new level.” U.S. warships are regularly visiting Vietnam. And with China claiming the entire South China Sea and increasingly flexing its military muscle, Vietnam and other countries in the region are looking for closer relations with the United States.



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[MEMORIAL]

Legionnaire found 'symbol of hope' in Flight 93 debris

BY DENNIS McCAFFERTY



Like many Americans, Dick Pristas heard about a plane hitting the first World Trade Center tower the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, and thought it was an accident.

But when another plane hit the second tower 17 minutes later, he figured it had to be a coordinated attack. At 9:37 a.m., a third plane flew into the Pentagon.

Shortly after 10 a.m., the horror struck home when a fourth plane, Flight 93, crashed into a field near Shanksville, Pa., not far from where Pristas serves as a volunteer fireman.

"At first, we thought it was a small plane, so we didn't think it had anything to do with the attacks," says Pristas, a Vietnam War Army veteran and commander of American Legion Post 257. "But then the radio reported that at least 200 people were on board. I knew then that we were involved."

As a first responder, Pristas was both a participant in and witness to history. And he found a symbol of hope on that smoldering Shanksville field. As construction of a Flight 93 memorial continues, Pristas shared his memories of that day with *The American Legion Magazine*.

Q: What was the crash site like?

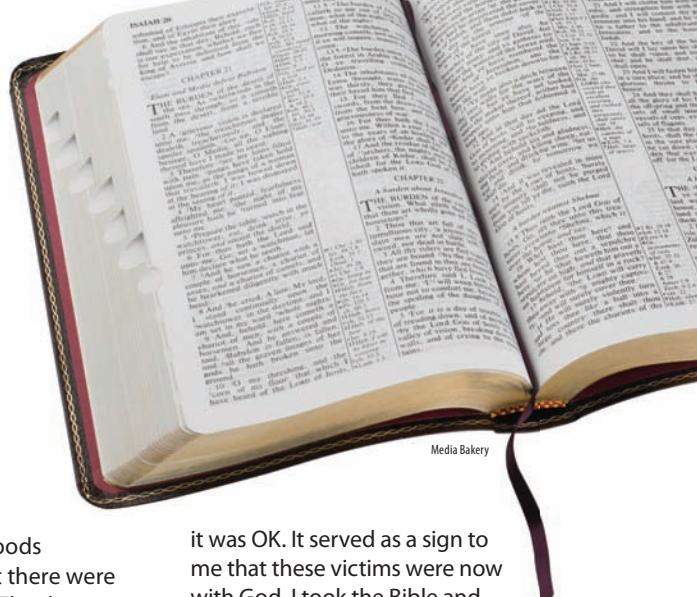
A: It was just a big, smoking hole – about the size of a large above-ground swimming pool. The woods nearby were on fire. But there were no bodies to be found. Thank goodness it crashed where it did. It's an empty field. It used to be a strip-coal mine. But there are no houses or buildings. Later, I talked to some folks who lived nearby. They said it just went straight down, nose first. That really affected them emotionally.

Q: How did you and the other firefighters proceed?

A: When we arrived, we realized there wasn't a lot for us to clean up. I helped keep the trucks operating. There were about three dozen of us at first. We didn't know what to say to each other. We were very subdued, just going about our business. I could only think about the victims' families.

Q: Then you made a rather amazing discovery.

A: I saw what looked like a hardback book on the ground. I picked it up, and it was a Bible. It was a little tattered, but



Media Bakery

it was OK. It served as a sign to me that these victims were now with God. I took the Bible and put it on the front of the bumper of our first engine to arrive. Eventually, an investigator collected it as evidence. Since then, I've spoken with many victims' family members, and it's very meaningful to them that the Bible was found. They consider it a miracle of sorts.

Q: How often do you think about the victims on Flight 93?

A: All the time. They're heroes. They stood up for their country. They knew what had happened, and they didn't want to play any part in any further destruction of America. So they took action. Most think the plane would have hit the White House or the Capitol if they didn't do what they did. Imagine how awful that would have been, to damage either of these great symbols of our nation.

Dennis McCafferty is a senior writer for USA Weekend.



Illustration: Aleksander (Olek) Novak-Zemplinski; bioLINIA; Design: Paul Murdoch Architects

Read more about the Flight 93 Memorial project, or donate online:

www.honorflight93.org

'These people did fight back'

Because Flight 93 was scheduled to fly to San Francisco, where Gulf War Marine Corps veteran and Legionnaire Michael Emerson lives, the crash has special meaning for him. He built his own memorial to the victims near his hometown, and serves on the steering committee overseeing construction of the national memorial in Shanksville, Pa.

"I contemplate what I would have done if I were in their shoes," Emerson says. "In the end, I feel lots of pride, because these people did fight back."

With about \$17 million collected so far in private funding, Emerson says an additional \$15 million in donations is needed to complete the project. "This is an opportunity to provide a lasting memorial to these heroes, right where it happened," he says.

– Dennis McCafferty

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[ECONOMICS]

Law reaffirms parity in federal contracting

Recent legislation increasing veterans' ability to win federal contracts will open doors for veteran business owners.

On Sept. 27, President Obama signed the Small Business Jobs and

Credit Act of 2010, which amended wording for the Historically Underutilized Business Zone ("HUBZone") Empowerment Contracting Program. The

legislation says "a contracting opportunity shall be awarded" to a HUBZone firm if a reasonable expectation exists that two or more qualified firms will submit offers (known as the rule of two). With the new law, "shall" now becomes "may," which parallels the wording for service-disabled veteran-owned programs and brings all these major socioeconomic programs into parity.

Also, on Oct. 7, another development regarding veteran procurement at VA was settled in court, validating a claim that VA improperly awarded a contract to a nonveteran company before it considered veterans first, per the Veterans Benefits, Health Care and Information Technology Act of 2006.

Veteran status is the only small-business status recognized by the federal government in which membership must be earned to participate. It has two requirements: you must have worn the uniform, and you have to be an entrepreneur.

The American Legion continues to fight to protect the earned rights of veteran business owners, and will be working closely with the new Congress to ensure the government-contracting playing field is level.

Louis J. Celli Jr. is CEO of the Veterans Business Resource Center. Readers can send questions for "On Point" to lcelli@nevbr.org.

ON POINT



VETERANS & BUSINESS

BY LOUIS J. CELLI JR.



James V. Carroll

[LEGION RACING]

Brakes derail final '10 race for Freedom Car

Jerick Johnson drove The American Legion/David Law Firm 76 Freedom Car to a 27th-place finish in the American 200 on Oct. 8. The 200-lap, 200-mile race at North Carolina's Rockingham Speedway was ARCA's season-ending event.

Johnson entered and ended the race 18th in championship points and in second place for Hard Charger.

"We had ourselves in position to overtake (Patrick Sheltra's) 60 car to capture the Hard Charger Award, but our brakes gave out," a disappointed Johnson said after the race. "Brake problems have plagued us all season."

Johnson was in 18th place with fewer than 90 laps remaining when he lost his brakes. A caution gave his team an opportunity to search for the problem, but Johnson lost several laps and never recovered.

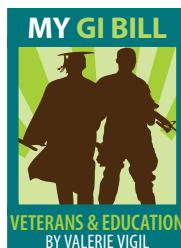
"It's gratifying that we were even in a position to win, given the fact that we were only in 16 of the 20 races this season," Johnson said. "Had we raced all 20 events, who knows where we would have finished? A top 10 in the championship points would not have been out of the question, nor the Hard Charger Award."

— James V. Carroll

[EDUCATION]

Benefits available to children of disabled vets

Q: *I have a disability and was wondering if my 18-year-old daughter is eligible to receive education benefits.*



A: The Dependents' Educational Assistance Program, Chapter 35, provides education benefits for the spouse and dependent children of a veteran or servicemember who is determined to be permanently and totally disabled from service-connected causes, is on active duty and likely to be discharged with a permanent and total disability, died in service, died of service-connected causes, or is currently missing in action or captured in the line of duty.

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Valerie Vigil, a Marine Corps veteran and member of American Legion Post 27 in Arizona, is a past vice president of the National Association of Veterans' Programs Administrators. Send GI Bill questions to her by e-mail. askvalerie@legion.org

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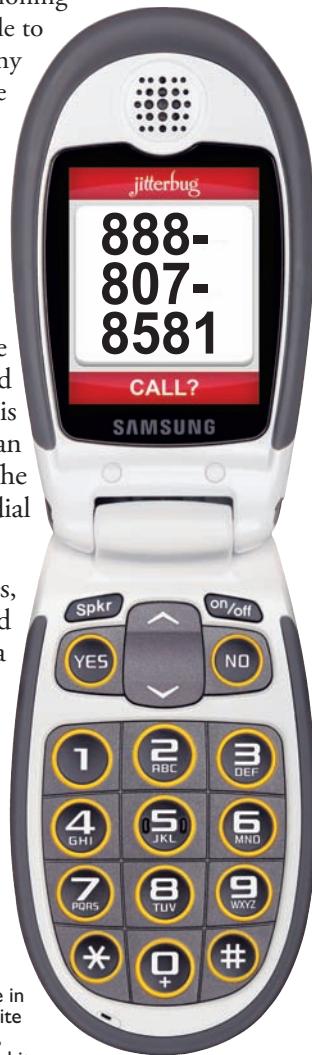
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James V. Carroll

Legion takes lead on TBI, PTS

Twenty-five years after The American Legion sponsored an independent study with Columbia University on the effects of exposure to Agent Orange on Vietnam War veterans, the organization is again at the forefront of research that will affect the newest generation of veterans for years to come.

During the Fall Meetings in Indianapolis Oct. 10-14, the National Executive Committee approved the formation of an ad hoc committee that will investigate existing science and procedures for treating traumatic brain injury (TBI) and post-traumatic stress (PTS), as well as look at alternative methods of treatment that aren't yet in place in Department of Defense and VA medical systems.

National Commander Jimmie Foster appointed past national commanders William Detweiler, Ron Conley and Robert Spanogle to the committee, along with National Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission Chairman Michael Helm and Department of Maine National Executive Committeeman Robert Owen.

During the meetings, Foster issued a quick response to the Sept. 9 ruling by U.S. District Judge Virginia Phillips in Riverside, Calif., that would "immediately suspend and discontinue any investigation, or discharge, separation or other proceeding that may have been commenced" under the "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

"For an unelected judge with lifetime tenure to issue such a ruling while the military was in the process of surveying its troops on the impact of such a policy change is outrageous," said Foster, who sent a letter to President Obama asking him to appeal the ruling.

"Our military is engaged in two wars. Military commanders have much more important issues to deal with at this time. This is not about politics. It's about doing what's best for our troops and not distracting from the war effort. Our military should not be micromanaged by judicial edicts."

Foster also looked ahead to the November elections and what they will mean for veterans.

"Whichever political party controls Congress is of no interest to us, as long as they do right by America's veterans and our military," he said. Meanwhile, much remains to be done, he added.

"We will continue to press ... to ensure that all military retirees that receive disability pay also receive their full retirement pay. Every year we make progress in chipping away at the disabled veterans tax. We will not stop until it is completely eliminated. We will also continue to call on VA to allow veterans to use their Medicare benefits in the health-care system that was built specifically for them."

— Steve B. Brooks

[MEMBERSHIP]

NEW POSTS

Post 539, New Bern, N.C.: Chartered Oct. 1 (28 members)

Kenneth B. May Jr. Post 232, Longview, Texas: Chartered Oct. 1 (15 members)

Phippsburg Memorial Post 216, Phippsburg, Maine: Chartered Sept. 15 (15 members)

The following are key resolutions passed by the National Executive Committee during the 2010 Fall Meetings. The full text of all resolutions is available by contacting the National Headquarters Library at (317) 630-1200, e-mailing library@legion.org, or going online to www.legion.org/resolutions.

AMERICANISM

29 Seek appropriate legislation or presidential proclamation to alter, amend or modify certain U.S. Flag Code provisions

ECONOMIC

17 Support funding for additional housing for homeless veterans with families

18 Support reauthorization and funding of VA's Small Business Loan Program

19 Support early rollover of IRA accounts without penalty for totally disabled veterans

20 Help Department of Labor, VETS create a one-stop nationwide job bank for veterans

21 Support and strengthen the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act

22 Support veteran-hiring initiative at VA

FINANCE

5 National Forensic League sponsorship

6 Conduct a needs-and-issues survey of women veterans

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

14 Affirmative consent for post transfer

15 Redesignate the Liberty Memorial in Kansas City, Mo., and the District of Columbia World War I Memorial as national World War I memorials

NATIONAL SECURITY

25 Extend Selective Service program to women 18 to 25

27 Establish a strategic plan for U.S. internal security

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

30 Commend the Republic of Chile for mining rescue

31 Urge Congress and DoD to refrain from establishing any law, policy or regulation that would require military chaplains, chaplain assistants, military physicians or medical practitioners to comply with directives contrary to their religious beliefs

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

13 Create an ad hoc committee on traumatic brain injury (TBI)

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[LEGIONNAIRES IN ACTION]

Walk of Memories

Legionnaire spends 20 years building Georgia memorial, one brick at a time.

BY HEATHER LARSON

Nineteen years ago, J.R. "Chief" Wages envisioned a place of tranquility to honor men and women from Georgia who made the ultimate sacrifice in the nation's wars. Today, that vision is a reality. In Alpharetta, Ga., 30 minutes from Atlanta, nearly 8,000 bricks memorialize the fallen, those who were held captive, and their families.

Located on 13 acres of American Legion-owned land, the memorial is the only one of its kind in Georgia. Remembered there are the state's many fallen troops, from the Indian wars to Afghanistan.

"J.R. has worked tirelessly and put this project together from concept to reality, loving every minute of the time he spends on it," says Janet Rodgers, president and CEO of the Alpharetta Convention and Visitors Bureau. "The work he does for American Legion Post 201 and the Walk of Memories demonstrates his love for giving back and helping all those who have given their lives serving our country."

Wages, 83, researched the names and information, secured donations,



Photos courtesy J.R. Wages

ordered the bricks and personally installed them. Now he maintains the grounds as a volunteer.

Families of the deceased have paid for about 15 percent of the bricks, Wages estimates. Local businesses and other contributors have been asked to cover the remaining costs. Though he hasn't collected much in the way of donations in the past few years, that hasn't stopped him from keeping up with the project.

A 23-year Army veteran, Wages combs through military publications, seeking the names of Georgians who have lost their lives in the war on terrorism. He's filled six 3-ring binders with names and information for each memorial brick.

In addition to the Walk of Memories, Wages is proud of the helicopter, tank

and military gun he managed to acquire for the site. The UH-1 Huey helicopter was flown during the 1968 Tet Offensive in Vietnam.

"It took us a year to put it together after we got it from a salvage yard," he says. "I researched what action it had seen and created a plaque telling the story of its missions." The Huey's pilot, Frederick E. Ferguson, received the Medal of Honor.

Also stationed at the memorial are a 93,000-pound M60 tank and a 40 mm Mark 1 twin gun mount from USS *Polk County*. Both are on loan to the Walk of Memories, which means Wages must file a yearly report about them and how they are used. Because the helicopter was salvaged, the Legion post owns it.

The Walk of Memories in Alpharetta is free and open to the public around the clock.

Heather Larson is a freelance writer who lives in Washington.

Read more about the Walk of Memories online:

 www.legion201.org

[MILITARY AFFAIRS]

Going, going, gone?

Size of the U.S. combat fleet

1992	2001	2010
466 ships	316 ships	285 ships

Source: *The American Interest*

U.S. Navy



[TROOP SUPPORT]

OCW delivers at Bethesda

As part of its Operation Comfort Warriors program, The American Legion delivered 50 iPods and 20 Nintendo Wii controllers to the Wounded Warrior Regiment at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., on Oct. 5.

"The controllers will be used by injured Marines and sailors who need to work on regaining their eye-hand coordination," said Jerry Johnson, the Legion's representative at the hospital. "Many such video games are great for improving an injured patient's cognitive functioning. They've been successful in helping TBI patients both here and at Walter Reed."

Joe Grassi, deputy director of the Legion's National Security and Foreign Relations Division, said the Bethesda delivery is "the Legion's way to keep up the spirits of our wounded, ill and injured warriors during their recovery." As for the hospital's liaison staff, "they know we are the 'go-to' people when something needs to be done," Johnson said.



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Tom Strattman

[ECONOMIC]

Milwaukee job fair still reaping results

At the close of the 92nd National Convention in Milwaukee, the Legion's Heroes to Hometowns Job Fair was deemed a success. Two months later, the event is still paying dividends for veterans.

During the convention, the Legion's Economic Division coordinated an employment fair and information expo, providing veterans with relevant career information and connecting them with military-friendly employers looking to hire. The event exceeded expectations; more than 30 of the 200 veterans who attended have since been hired by companies represented at the fair.

"The job fair was a resounding success," American Legion Economic Division Director Joe Sharpe said. "Connecting veterans directly with employers was a simple way of finding veterans jobs, but it proved to be highly effective. As always, the Legion looks to address the issue of veteran unemployment in the most direct ways possible."

In attendance at the job fair were corporations from many different fields, including tech companies, banks and retail outlets. One was RCS Retail Interiors, a consulting company. Representing RCS was Brett Bolman, a field-operations manager and Navy veteran who understands the value of hiring former servicemembers.

"Veterans have a great work ethic," Bolman says. "They appreciate structure and thrive within it. We employ a lot of veterans."

The Milwaukee job fair was part of a comprehensive employment effort by The American Legion. Each year, the Economic Division works with organizations such as RecruitMilitary, LLC, Military.com and Avue.

[ECONOMIC]

Federal insourcing threatens veteran-owned small businesses

The federal government is taking contracting jobs out of the private sector and making them government jobs, claiming such a move will save money. Instead, it's harming veteran-owned small businesses, Joe Sharpe, director of the Legion's Economic Division, said at a small-business development conference in Milwaukee.

"They're taking away the people with contracting and procurement skills, hiring them as federal employees, and leaving the smaller companies to go bankrupt," Sharpe said. "Basically, federal agencies are saying, 'Come work for us. We'll make you a G-11 for doing the same job.'"

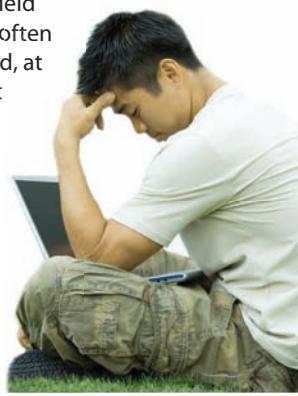
[ECONOMIC]

Veterans on campus an adjustment for all

The occasionally amusing and often vexing disconnect between veteran students and academics prompted Student Veterans of America (SVA) and The American Legion to bring educators, students and veteran advocates together for a two-day "Veterans on Campus" symposium during the 92nd National Convention in Milwaukee.

Gerald Kapinos, an Air Force veteran and SVA's Midwest regional director, said the college campus today isn't hostile toward veterans – just curious, and sometimes unwittingly insensitive. He was once asked by a student whose war experience was limited to video games how many "points" Kapinos got for killing bad guys during his two Middle East tours. What separates veterans from other students today is age and life experience. They are usually unfamiliar with campus life, benefits they've earned and, most of all, the culturally different mindsets of their civilian counterparts, including faculty, Kapinos said.

The second day of the symposium focused on accommodating veterans once they arrive on campus. John Bechtol, assistant dean of students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a 21-year Army field artillery officer, said veterans often feel lost in the academic world, at least at first. Recognizing that their experiences set them apart from their peers, he assures them that being a veteran is "a benefit, not a hindrance." He encourages faculty to share the same view, emphasizing veterans' positive qualities of leadership, maturity and unique perspective.



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Include the branch of service and complete name of the group, no abbreviations, with your request. The listing also should include the reunion dates and city, along with a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Listings are publicized free of charge.

Your notice will appear on our Web site within a week and will remain available online until the final day of your reunion. Upon submission, please allow three months for your reunion to be published in print. **Due to the large number of reunions, The American Legion Magazine will publish a group's listing only once a year.**

Notices should be sent at least six months prior to the reunion to ensure timely publication.

Other notices

"In Search Of" is a means of getting in touch with people from your unit to plan a reunion. **We do not publish listings that seek people for interviews, research purposes, military photos or help in filing a VA claim.** Listings must include the name of the unit from which you seek people, the time period and the location, as well as a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Send notices to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: "In Search Of," P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**, fax (317) 630-1280 or e-mail reunions@legion.org.

The magazine will not publish names of individuals, only the name of the unit. Listings are published free of charge.

Life Membership notices are published for Legionnaires who have been awarded life memberships by their posts. **This does not include a**

member's own Paid-Up-For-Life membership. Notices must be submitted on official forms, which may be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Life Memberships, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**.

"Comrades in Distress" listings must be approved by the Legion's Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation division. If you are seeking to verify an injury received during service, contact your Legion department service officer for information on how to publish a notice.

To respond to a "Comrades in Distress" listing, send a letter to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Comrades in Distress, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**. Include the listing's CID number in your response.

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COAST GUARD

Androscoggin WHEC-68, St. Petersburg Beach, FL, 6/12-16, David White, (727) 729-7839, andyreunion2011@tampabay.rr.com; **Bibb W 31**, Savannah, GA, 4/6-9, Michael Johnson, (770) 251-6680, oldhippie1249@ymail.org

MARINES

Alpha Co 1/7 Mar (Vietnam), Biloxi, MS, 6/9-12, Randy Cook, (256) 679-2318, rcook1@mindspring.com; **VMA(AW) 533, (Chu Lai, Iwakuni, Japan, 1969-1970)**, Las Vegas, 5/20-22, Jay Grams, (616) 291-9023, jgrams1@aol.com

NAVY

Bausell DD 845, Charleston, SC, 6/14-19, Eugene D'Arezzo, (928) 854-2205, genied@frontiernet.net; **Chikaskia AO-54**, Charleston, SC, 3/23-27, Robert Grant, (781) 249-5501, bobgrant1942@gmail.com; **East Coast Seabees**, Hampton, VA, 2/25-27, Bruce MacDougall, (804) 921-4753; **Firedrike AE 14**, Baton Rouge, LA, 5/10-14, Dick Tracy, (610) 207-2016, ae14.2009@gmail.com; **Franklin D. Roosevelt CVB/CVA/CV 42**, Albuquerque, NM, 5/11-15, Garry Theis, (419) 649-3878, rtheis001@woh.rr.com; **Hazelwood DD 531**, Jacksonville, FL, 4/27-29, Jim Julian, (941) 276-1217, dd531reunion@earthlink.net; **Holy Loch Scotland Assn**, Norfolk, VA, 5/12-15, Douglas Ebert, (207) 845-3188, lochsailor9@fairpoint.net; **Jason ARH 1/AR 8**, Branson, MO, 6/6-10, Bill Stansberry, (417) 649-6140, sssl@att.net; **Jesse L. Brown FF 1089**, Charleston, SC, 6/11-13, Todd Masus,

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NSA Da Nang (Vietnam), Wichita, KS, 4/6-9, Bernie Uhrinek, (724) 353-9627, jbarsar@salsgiver.com; **Power DD 839**, Worcester, MA, 6/25-29, John Pinto, (352) 527-2352, john.pinto@uspowerdd839.org; **Rich DDE 820**, Fort Mitchell, KY, 4/13-17, Dick Koeniger, (812) 756-1105, reunion2011@ussrich.org; **San Marcos LSD 25**, Virginia Beach, VA, 4/29-5/1, Jack Lieberman, (215) 287-4311, jacklieberman8104@comcast.net; **Seminole AKA/AKL 104**, Tulsa, OK, 4/27-30, Nick Haas, (918) 398-9600, chicksandcows@windstream.net; **Shangri La CV/CVA/CVS 38**, Pittsburgh, 6/22-27, Chuck Hull, (724) 378-3244, chuckh1809@aol.com; **Terror CM 5**, San Antonio, 5/4-8, Al Ryan, (863) 385-1017, apryan@comcast.net; **VXE 6**, Fort Mitchell, KY, 5/19-22, Joe Hollern, jhollern@woowwww.com; **Yellowstone AD 27**, Portland, ME, 5/18-21, Paul Bowen, (352) 208-5400, bowp@att.net

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1st Mar Div 1st Eng Bn Motor Transport

(1966-1968), Joseph Tomeo, (334) 756-2561, joe@blackbiscuit.net

1st Plt M Co 13th Inf Rgt 8th Div (Fort Jackson, SC, Apr-July 1952), H. E. "Beau" Bremer, (252) 637-5445

1st Trans Co 106th Trans Bn (All Eras), Steven Stanely, (802) 989-2736, sstanley1sttrans@yahoo.com

2nd 11th Arty (Vietnam, 1966-1967), Paul Fast, (859) 299-7180

3rd Bn 7th Mar 2nd Plt I Co (1967-1968), Kathy Winningham, (757) 237-9945, kwinn@twinkles.net

4th Trans Cmd (Saigon, Long Binh & Bien Hoa, Vietnam, 1966-1967) & 7th Trans, 224th Trans & 309th Boat Co (Mekong Delta, Vietnam), David Harvilak, (702) 613-4189, ohiobuck01@aol.com

5th Army B Co Reserve Forces Trng Bn (Fort Leonard Wood, MO, 1955-1956), Floyd Allen, (573) 783-1532, bumabe@socket.net

5th Army Soccer Team (Fort Riley, KS, 1971), Richard Bravo, (951) 763-5604, rbravob2@yahoo.com

11th Abn Div (Sendai, Japan, 1945-1946), Elmer Woodburn, (805) 494-7107

15th Cbt Eng Bn 9th Inf Div (Nuremberg, Germany, 1954-1957), Frank Bomberger, (402) 423-2193, fbomberger@neb.rr.com

15th USAF HQ Sqdn (March AFB, CA, 1957-1960), Bill Lacore, (651) 388-5837 or (651) 353-1132, redwing837@gmail.com

19th Inf Reg HQ Co (Korea, 1950), H.E. Knudson, (320) 592-3673

27th Com Sqdn (Andersen AFB, Guam, 1955-1956), Bob King, (949) 870-0790, sqts44@gmail.com

55th MP Co (Korea, 1951-1952), John Fontana, (408) 241-6003, coldell@att.net

57th Ord 9 Log Cmd (Thailand, 1962), Norman Chenevert, normsroyalstar@yahoo.com

71st Inf (New York, 1941), August Krzemien, xkpfph@gmail.com

366th Field Maint Sqdn Mech Accessories/Environmental Shop (Da Nang AB, Vietnam, Oct 1971-Oct 1972), Gregory Fortner, (706) 621-0522, bfotner@windstream.net

393rd Eng Bn 3182 Petroleum Eng Co (Okinawa, 1945-1946), Billy Hodge, (817) 649-0353, jhharbor-pals@yahoo.com

525th QM PD Co (Fort Lee, VA & Vietnam, 1966-1968), George Snelling, (410) 667-7632, snellinggp@aol.com

615th Eng Equip Co (Lae, New Guinea, 1944-1945), David Storrs, (218) 326-4283, davra@mchs1.com

2903rd Supply Sqdn (Brookley AFB, Mobile, AL, 1955-1958), Dean DeLoach, (407) 856-0562, deoloc_e@bellsouth.net

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Caribou IX 114 (Philippines, South Pacific, March 1944-Dec 1945), James Smith, (419) 864-1197, b20fishnana@yahoo.com
Co 952 (NTC Great Lakes, IL, Aug-Oct 1969), Mike Strunk, (314) 427-4270
Co K-39 (Cape May, NJ, 1959), A. Youngblood, (843) 795-1292, lyby@bellsouth.net
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H&S Co 4th Tng Bde (Fort Knox, KY, 1962-1964), Don Nieding, (440) 967-7422, doro@centurytel.net
Holland AS 3 (WWII), Fred Dickinson, (863) 420-9416 or (813) 230-9141
HQ & HQ Co 3rd Bde 4th Inf Div (Fort Carson, CO, 1974-1978), Dan Bushey, (518) 250-4505
Navy Radioman "A" School (San Diego, 1971) & Nav Comm Stn Cubi Point (Subic Bay, Philippines, 1972-1973), Al Gaydo, (724) 274-4692, alnjoanne@msn.com
Nike Prov Plt (West Point, 1957), Richard Rice, (931) 622-6285, heydad1@bellsouth.net

NMCB 138, 547, Tom Paglia, 84 Grand View Lane, Rochester, NY 14612, (585) 227-2046
Northeast Air Cmd (1954-1957), Art Milton, (817) 602-5996, magicpen@att.net
Opn Deep Freeze Winter Over 79 Crew, John Barker, (904) 222-1362, jwbarker@bellsouth.net
Plt 69 (Parris Island, SC, 1946), Anthony Raspanti, raspantanthonry@bellsouth.net
Quonset Point NAS Personnel Dept (Quonset Point, RI, Sept 1959-May 1962), Ronald Hesselbacher, ronaldhesselbacher@comcast.net
RVAH-1 (NAS Sanford, FL, 1967-1970), Frank DeLuca, (412) 370-7055, fdeluca@comcast.net
Seabee 36 Special NCB (Providence, RI, Port Hueneme, CA & Okinawa, 1946), Reinhard Krone, 426 3rd St. North, Browns Valley, MN 56219, (320) 695-2561
Seabee Team 101 (Vinh Long Province, Vietnam, 1967-1968), Roy Smithson, (502) 376-2501, rhsconst@yahoo.com
Tutuila ARG 4 (1966-1967), Dick Boera, boera@charter.net
USCG Lorsta French Frigate Shoals, HI, 1967-1968), Marvin Johnson, (573) 377-2781, 36@hotmail.com
Vulcan (AR 5), Paul Stein, 6717 218th St., Bayside, NY 11364, (718) 229-3345, or Walt Stine, 330 Wyandotte Trail SW, Hartville, OH 44632, (330) 877-1046, bpvulcan@yahoo.com

Wildcat Div (88th Inf Div), J. Wood, trinityveterans@gmail.com
Yog 32 (1955-1957), Frank Cahill, carpo139@aol.com

TAPS

Rennie M. Singletary Jr., Dept. of South Carolina. Nat'l Rehab. Cmsn. Advisory Board Memb. 1960-1961, Nat'l & Homeland Sec. Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1968-1985, Dept. Cmdr. 1985-1986, Nat'l Sgt.-At-Arms 1980-1981, Nat'l Exec. Cmdt. Alt. Memb. 1993-2001, Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Vice Chmn. 2000-2001, Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Vice Chmn. 1986-1993, Nat'l Exec. Cmdt. Memb. 2001-2007, Nat'l Internal Affairs Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 2006-2007, Nat'l Legis. Cncl. Memb. 1975-1980, 2001-2002 and 2007-2009, Nat'l Legis. Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 2002-2006, Nat'l Legis. Cncl. Vice Chmn. 2005-2007, and Nat'l Veterans Affairs & Rehab. Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 2001-2002.
E. Russell Short, Dept. of Idaho. Dept. Cmdr. 1961-1962 and Nat'l Homeland Sec. Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1963-1964.
James E. Uecker, Dept. of Washington. Dept. Cmdr. 1985-1986, Nat'l Homeland Sec. & Civil Preparedness Cmte. Nat'l Cmdr.'s Rep. 1984-1985, Nat'l Legis. Cmsn. Memb. 1986-1989 and Nat'l Legis. Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1987-1988.

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a. Total No. of Copies		
Printed	2,344,898	2,295,520
b. Paid and/or Requested Circulation		
1. Paid/Requested Outside-County Subscriptions Stated on Form 3541	2,336,602	2,287,250
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4. Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS	0	0
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2. In-County as Stated on Form 3541	0	0
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e. Free distribution outside the mail	0	0
f. Total Free distribution		
(Sum of 15d and 15e)	3,063	3,048
g. Total distribution		
(Sum of 15c and 15f)	2,343,968	2,294,611
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i. Total (Sum of 15g and h)	2,344,898	2,295,520
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17. I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete.		
(Signed)		Jeffrey Stoffer, Publisher

Money isn't everything, but it sure keeps the kids in touch.

TWO FACTORY WORKERS were talking about their jobs during a break. "I know how to get some time off work," the man said.

"How will you do that?" the woman asked. He answered by climbing up to the rafters and hanging upside down. The boss walked in, saw the man hanging from the ceiling and asked, "What on earth are you doing?"

"I'm a light bulb," he answered.

The boss replied, "I think you need some time off." So the man jumped down and walked out of the factory, followed by the woman.

"And where do you think you're going?" the boss asked.

"Home," she quipped. "I can't work in the dark."

A MAN AND HIS WIFE sat down with their morning cups of coffee and listened to the weather report on the radio.

"There will be 3 to 5 inches of snow today," the announcer said. "You must park your cars on the odd-numbered sides of the streets." The man said, "Geez, OK," and headed outside.

The next day, the announcer said, "There will be another 2 to 4 inches of snow today. Park on the even-numbered sides of the streets." The man shook his head and headed outside again.

Two days later, the announcer said, "There will be 6 to 9 more inches of snow today. Park your cars on –" Right then, the power went out. The man muttered, "What am I supposed to do now?"

Without looking up from the newspaper, his wife replied, "Why don't you just leave the car in the garage today?"



"Don't you dare use that tone of voicemail with me."



"Geez! Do you always have to be such a control freak?"



"Are you offering me a bribe?"

A SHOOTING PARTY was out for a day's sport, and a young man new to hunting took aim at a pheasant running along the ground. "Hey!" his companion shouted. "Don't shoot a running bird!"

"What kind of idiot do you take me for?" the young man replied. "Can't you see I'm waiting until it stops?"

IF THE METRIC SYSTEM ever takes over, we may have to say the following:

- Twenty-eight grams of prevention is worth 453 grams of cure.
- Give a man 2.5 centimeters and he'll take 1.6 kilometers.
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